



(213) 766-6811
13033 Ventura Boulevard, Suite L
Studio City, California 91604

THE WASHINGTON MARCH

A Firsthand Report

By Lois and Maria

October 15, 1979 is a truly significant date for those of us who marched in Washington D.C., as well as for those of you who thrilled to the live radio coverage and followed us in spirit. The National March for Lesbian and Gay Rights was the most ecstatic, peaceful, well-ordered and well-attended march we have ever seen (veterans as we are of the sixties). Many of us were there simply as an act of affirmation and of solidarity, while focusing attention on our oppression as lesbians and gay men. The mood was serious. This was not just another "parade", another "party." We are still high from the experiencing of such tremendous unity. We expect the spirit of support of one another to endure long after people stop talking about the march.

Even the order of procession of the delegations reflected a greater sensitivity and consciousness somewhat new in our movement, especially for gay men. For instance it was women who led the march, with Third World women in front, followed by the physically challenged, the children and older people, the internationals (led by Puerto Rico), and then men, parents and friends, U.S. regions (including hundreds from Alaska!), and national organizations and supporters — yes, they were all there!

The two of us had answered a last minute call for parade facilitators, and before we knew it we had been trained in security and appropriately outfitted with lavender sashes. Our job was to keep the head of the march moving smoothly, and to prevent men from stealing into the long-awaited limelight of the lesbians who were scheduled to lead. We had also been warned that there might be counter-demonstrations, and sure enough, when the word came down the parade line that "they" were waiting for us up ahead, we looked at each other with wide eyes, took deep



Estimates varied from 25,000 to 200,000 on the number of gay rights supporters gathered on the grounds of the Washington Monument yesterday to hear music and speeches.

Thousands Rally in Support of Gay Rights

Turnout Marks Milestone Event
In the History of Gay Movement

By Regina Cahill
Washington Star Staff Writer

With banners waving and hands playing, thousands of homosexuals and their supporters from across the country yesterday marched up Pennsylvania Avenue to the grounds of the Washington Monument in the first major gay rights demonstration in the Nation's Capital.

The turnout marked the event as a milestone in the history of the gay rights movement.

While organizers of the march were claiming upward of 200,000 participants—and congratulating themselves on outdrawing the pope—official estimates were varied widely. District of Columbia police said there were 75,000 people in attendance and U.S. Park Police put the crowd estimate at 25,000.

But numbers aside, the mood and the commitment of the crowd were evidence that gays are prepared to launch a public battle for equal rights.

"This rally marks the first time that the gay constituency has pulled together on a national level, and that is a very important political step for us," said Steve Ault, a march leader.

"We're 20-million strong and we're not going to ask anyone, we're demanding, America, that you deal with us," cried Arlie Scott, vice president of National Organization for Women.

"You know us, America, you see us in your offices, in your schools, in your churches, in your Congress. We are everywhere. And we are moving from gay pride to gay politics, no be prepared."

The issue, proclaimed comedian Robin Tyler, was not sexual politics. "We're talking about our right to choose. We are demanding our civil rights. Today is the beginning of a new era for us," Tyler said.

Reps. Ted Weiss, D-N.Y., and Phillip Bur-



THE WASHINGTON STAR, one of D.C.'s two major newspapers, gave The March extensive coverage.



A counter-demonstrator at yesterday's gay rights rally.

largely credited to gay support — seat representative instead. Marchers, most of whom were young and white, wore "gay is groovy" buttons and carried posters saying "closets are in clothes." Men appeared to slightly outnumber women.

breaths, and plunged ahead only to confront two of the most pathetic fanatics, who did no more than hold up banners telling us what punishments God had in store for our "sins."

To give an idea of the immensity of the crowd, we marchers who arrived at the rally site first waited two and a half hours before the last of the marchers got there. We won't take too much issue with those minimizing the specific number of marchers. The count given at the march was 250,000 though later reports indicate it was more like 100,000. We know that what really counts in these events is the presence and the cooperation of members of our com-

munity who have expertise in coordinating public relations so that the media is properly influenced to convey the truth.

In the months before the march, there were diverse opinions on the political appropriateness of holding this event at this time. Like the Poor Peoples March during the 60's, some questioned the validity of its leadership. Also there was no particular pending legislation per se for which the march would have shown politicians our strength. There were not really any superstars of celebrities, and no wining, dancing, and dining of politicians beforehand. But the fact is the march did take place any-

Continued on page 3

FORUM



AN OPEN LETTER TO LESBIAN TEACHERS:

In June of 1976 a notice went out to the gay and lesbian media about forming a gay/lesbian teacher support group in greater Los Angeles. The response to that notice was entirely male. Since then the gay male/lesbian teacher ratio for the group has been about ten to one.

The question always asked is "Are there any lesbian teachers, and if so, where are they?" It seems that as more and more gay male teachers come out of the closet, this question is being asked more and more. Over the years teachers, male and female, have proposed the following theories.

- 1) One or two lesbians come to the gay teacher meetings and see no other women there. They feel isolated and so they never show up again.
- 2) Gay male teachers are sexist and anti-women/ therefore, why should lesbian teachers work with them.
- 3) Active lesbian teachers like lesbians in general identify more with the women's movement than with the gay movement, so they direct their energies accordingly.
- 4) Because of general sexism in our society a man, gay or not, who loses his job could more easily find a new one than could a lesbian. Lesbian teachers, therefore, must stay in the closet more than gay male teachers.
- 5) Since lesbian life styles are more discreet than gay male life styles, lesbians are not as insecure as gay men and, therefore do not need a support group as much as gay male teachers.
- 6) Some lesbian teachers have custody of children and the only way to retain this is to remain very closeted.
- 7) Many gay males see in teaching a way of having a substitute family. Far fewer lesbians feel this way, especially since many of them have children; so the percentage of lesbians attracted to teaching is smaller than it is for gay men.
- 8) According to Kinsey and other statistics there are only half as many lesbians as gay men; so there are likely to be far fewer lesbian teachers than gay male teachers.

Some of these theories seem logical, others are questionable. We invite responses from the Community on this whole issue.

Norman McClelland, President
Gay Teachers of Los Angeles
P.O. Box 10024, Glendale, CA 91209

On Coming Out — Another View

Attending a meeting or a rap session is a dangerous activity! It tends to give one a sense of security that is unrealistic. Sitting in a room surrounded by other lesbians, the feeling that emanates is one of pride and safeness. The straight world fades and all the hazards of being a lesbian fall by the wayside. There is an overwhelming feeling of wanting to be one of those who is educating the community by coming out of the closet or by speaking out on pertinent issues. When reality returns and the facts are weighed, the result is always the same: the price is too high; the risk is too great.

It has been said there comes a time when one must stand and be counted. For some, to do this carries no ramifications. For others, it would be disastrous. The others I refer to are those lesbians who are educators by profession. They know of what I speak. The necessity to remain anonymous is constant. I, who would have been the most affected by Proposition 6, could not even speak out against it, let alone actively campaign for its' defeat (I did send a contribution). The frustration that accompanies the need to remain silent gives rise to a series of questions: When is the time to stand and be counted? How long stand by and not defend who you are? When does the risk become secondary?

It is my one remaining ambition to come out of the closet to the whole world. I want it for myself. But I know that a by-product will be to work endlessly educating others and making up for the time I couldn't stand and be counted.

ELSI

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Fine Lines copy and graphics.

From L.A. County call Virginia at (213) 432-3391
From Orange County call Carol at (714) 538-0965

Dear Mom,

Tonight was one of those times when I wanted to just reach out and hold you, but of course I didn't. I say of course because neither one of us have ever been very good at that, have we? For whatever reason, there has always been a barrier to real intimacy between us. That isn't to say I don't love you because I do — very, very much. It just seems that neither of us has ever been very comfortable expressing our feelings, or our fears, or our loves — at least not with each other.

During the last year and a half I know I have been distancing myself more and more from you. I've been aware of it but haven't been in a place to really do much about it. It has just been easier to let us drift further and further apart. This isn't what I want and hopefully it isn't what you want.

You once commented that you didn't know any of my friends and had no idea how I spent my time. I remember answering that all you had to do was ask and I would tell you anything you wanted to know. Well you never asked, and I never volunteered — and our worlds became more divergent. We had less to share and the distance between us continued to increase.

I've come to a place where the pain of continued distancing isn't worth avoiding sharing myself with you — even if there is pain or rejection caused by the sharing.

Mom, it is important for you to know that I'm a lesbian. J and I lived as a couple and loved as a couple for over thirteen years. I'm ashamed of many things in my life but I'm not ashamed of this. Our love was a beautiful, gentle thing which I wouldn't have missed and which I will always be grateful for having experienced.

When J left my world came apart. It didn't happen overnight. We spent a whole year analyzing, crying, and trying very hard to find a solution that wouldn't be so painful — but we couldn't — and she left — and a large part of me died. I loved her, and in many ways still love her.

Until we began to split up I had never really known any other homosexuals. Oh, I knew they were out there but I didn't know where to look. Besides I had J and I thought I didn't need anyone else. I was very lucky. At the time I most needed help a whole community opened up to me. I have found loving, caring women who have helped me to find and to expand my life.

Mom, I have lived with a secret love for many years. As a closely closeted lesbian none of my "straight" friends had any idea I was a homosexual. I'm tired of living in the dark and I'm not willing to do so any longer. I'd like to be able to share my world and my friends with you. Can you let me? My love and openness are yours if you can just reach back.

All my love,
Sharon

LIGHT UP THE COAST!

It didn't *sound* like too big a task. There we were near the Santa Monica pier with flashlights, ready to plow through sand and surf in support of the Gay & Lesbian March on Washington. There were plenty of us, too — all raring to go with fresh batteries. But in our enthusiasm we'd forgotten a few practical considerations: darkness is *dark* and flashlights just can't cut it. Hollywood Klieg lights would've been more to the point. And the length of the coast — in order to make a line of lights we had to be constantly implored to spread out, walk up toward Malibu. There were grumbles about letting the young ones hike to Santa Barbara, the Oregon border, etc. And then there was the surf — it drowned out the instructions of the indefatigable Joy Comander, who moved up and down the line with a small megaphone coordinating the lights. Maybe worst of all was the fact that we couldn't see each *other*, so we didn't get that fine sense of elation that comes from joyful participation in masses of gays. The media didn't show up, and one wonders if this was because of disinterest or because they realized there were no visuals to be had. The only possible pictures would have been from a helicopter, and height would have diminished our puny lights even further.

It was a great idea on paper, but it just didn't work. Carol Urist said that the group that gathered in Laguna had a rally, sang songs, and enjoyed themselves generally; there were about 250 of them and about 2000 at Santa Monica. Alas, from the lifeguard tower right on the beach, the Love of My Life only 15 feet away from me with both flashlights blazing, was invisible. Back to the drawing board.

B MacC

Notes From The Chair

It is almost impossible to put into words the emotion that I felt the night of our FIRST LESBIAN RIGHTS AWARDS BANQUET. During the months of preparation I felt a growing pride in us for our endeavor and, on the night of the event that pride swelled to bursting. The concept of women honoring women has too long been neglected in our community. SCWU corrected that oversight. Those of you who were present felt too the pulsing of emotion in the room — dignity, humor, love, warmth and a glowing pride. The comment was made that night that SCWU has set a standard for the entire Gay and Lesbian community. Since then the praise has been almost overwhelming. Again SCWU has looked at the responsibility we have accepted with our charter and we have realized a momentous meeting of that responsibility. The quality with which we present SCWU and the Lesbian image to the nongay public and to our own community is noteworthy. We are noteworthy.

Myra Riddell



Photo by Melissa Beal

MARCH

Continued from page 1

way! It is unrealistic for anyone ever again to consider these 100,000 an invisible group that can be continuously kept in a closet.

Maybe we can think of this march as a dress rehearsal. And if this much was possible despite opposition within and without, can you imagine the impact of the next national event when our political experts and public mood sensors do give the go-ahead signal? When all of us will act to provide our talents, skills and political savoir-faire at that *right* moment, to effectively end our social, economic, and judicial oppression?

This march in Washington truly demonstrated the potential of gay/lesbian politics. We know now we can be solid within ourselves and sensitive and conscious of other oppressed groups as we work side-by-side.

We are really glad we could be a part of it, to show the world our pride and strength, and that we in fact come from everywhere, and we *are* everywhere.

MYRA APPOINTED

Los Angeles County Supervisor Ed Edelman has appointed Myra Riddell to serve on the LA County Commission on the status of women. She replaces another SCWU member active in women's rights, Pat Denslow.

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by Johnnie

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A Christian Church with an outreach to the gay community. Rev. Jeri Ann Harvey, Pastor

herstories

by ELSI

Ed. Note: Autobiographies and biographies of SCWU members are welcome. In keeping with our policy of protecting anonymity, the subject can be identified or not, as you choose. Send copy, by Jan. 1, to: Feature Editor, SCWU NEWS.

He had grabbed me by the ankles and was holding me upside down, shaking me and yelling at me, outside the back door. All because he had caught me hugging his daughter. I shudder to think what he would have done had he come in a few minutes earlier and found me kissing her!

I was a sophomore in high school when I started to express the long suppressed desires and feelings I had toward special girl friends. Prior to that it was limited to writing hot notes and holding hands in church. Is that blasphemous? It couldn't be because it felt so good. I was in eighth grade and I don't recall why we went to church to hold hands but I do recall I haven't spent so much time in church in the last thirty years as I did during those next two years.

This affair lasted until the middle of my sophomore year. As I reflect on it now, I cannot associate any pain with the severing of that relationship although I'm certain there must have been some. Whatever misery there was was undoubtedly lessened by the fact that another girl took her place. This was the girl whose father had held me upside down. That did not, however, do anything to affect my relationship with his daughter.

I would pedal across town — a small matter when one has a desire the likes of mine — to see her at least twice a week. I always had to be home by 9 o'clock so our rendezvous were limited. I never what she told her mother and dad. I only knew she met me at the side door and we would neck the entire time until I had to leave.

How brazen we were! In the school gym on Friday nights after the game, there was always a dance. I spent almost the entire evening dancing with Bea — as close as any of the others. And no one said a word. At least not to me. I enjoyed a healthy degree of popularity in high school although I have to admit I was never considered for homecoming queen. I did dance a few times with some of the fellows but I always had such a difficult time following!

After high school came the service. We all remember the initial interview with the psychiatrist "do you prefer going to parties where there are more girls or more boys?" I wonder if that was the beginning of the lies. Prior to that, no one had ever asked me that question or any question with that implication.

My stint in the Air Force fell short of the term I had signed for. Enlisting for four years in the early fifties, I lasted only three. I'll forever remember the overwhelming feeling of relief I had when I discovered there were others who shared my special way of feeling. It was there I really received my education. It was the end of my fumbling.

I still look upon those years as fun-filled despite the intrusions of the CIA who, it seemed, were always everywhere. Those of you who were in the service can relate to my experiences: questioning by the agents, harassment at work, interception of mail, promises made if only you would "confess". Their harassment of me continued for almost a year. Then, upon the promise of a General Discharge, I "confessed". If I had known the price I was to pay for that act, I'm certain I would never have signed anything. Not only did they renege on their promise of a GD and give me a UD, but their constant badgering had completely destroyed my self image. On the day of discharge, when two MP's escorted me off the base, my ego hit bottom.

All of the years since then, I have had to fill that period of three years with a lie. (After being fired from several government affiliated jobs, when my employment application was investigated, I learned that a lie was more practical than the truth.)

It was necessary to make some explanations to my family. I wrote to one of my sisters explaining that I had been discharged on the basis of "association with homosexuals". Her return letter stated she knew I would never "stoop to anything so low". That ended any thoughts I may have had about confiding in her. Thankfully, I have another sister and when I decided to discuss the situation with her my approach was different. "Did it ever occur to you that the reason I was discharged from the service may be true?" I asked her. Her answer was simple: "Yes, but you're my sister and I love you." To this day, that sister and I have discussed lesbianism

many times and she remains a staunch defender and strong ally. I would wish that you all could enjoy having that kind of a confidant.

After discharge I ran the gamut of beach and bar. This was the era of Levi's and white shirts and if you were half the dyke you thought you were, you didn't mess around wearing anything else on Friday and Saturday nights. I spent the next several years doing this routine: dancing up a storm in the bars, having love affairs one after the other and sometimes simultaneously, sleeping on the beach at Santa Monica all night, listening to Aggie Dukes sing "Grandma Plays the Numbers" in one of the beach bars, and working a few days in between.

When I finally tired of doing this act, I began putting my future together. I started college at the age of 31. I recall the interview for my first teaching position and the moment of truth when the application called for me to check whether I had been in military service and then swear that all the foregoing was true. I checked the "no" box, and today my position as an educator is intact because of that lie.



Elsi right side up

I've long forgiven Bea's father for holding me upside down and I'm currently having my discharge upgraded. My life is running smoothly and I am secure and happy in who I am. Bring on the Anita Bryants! I'm ready!

By The Board

- *** SCWU has made Midge Costanza, Del Martin, and Phyllis Lyon honorary members.
- *** The Board and the Southern Steering Committee had a dinner meeting in Long Beach to get better acquainted and to discuss policies.
- *** A Development Task Force has worked out the requirements for forming and developing SCWU groups outside the central Los Angeles area.
- *** The same Task Force has also codified the procedures for cooperating, coordinating, training, handling finances and doing other business with these groups.
- *** To unload some of the cartons of printing, party supplies, records, and so forth that are scattered around the city, SCWU will rent a centrally located storage locker soon.
- *** An Ad Hoc Committee is exploring the idea of renting and equipping an SCWU office in which our secretary could work and at which someone could regularly be reached by phone.
- *** SCWU took out ads in the dinner programs for both the Morris Kight and the Shelly Andelson testimonial dinners.
- *** A committee has been formed to revise our by-laws; the opportunity to do this presents itself as part of the requirement for gaining our tax-exempt status.

Southern Committee

It's December, that means Holidays. Beyond the traditional celebrations of Chanukkah and Christmas we of SCWU have much to be happy about.

The Southern Committee is especially proud to be so actively involved with the growth of SCWU. We've developed in a short 16 months an organization of great significance. So we wish you all much love and energy in your creative pursuit of life. Some helpful ways to further said pursuit:

December 21st: Holiday Hijinks - Party
Place: 3044 Mountain View Dr., Laguna
714-494-3160
Call for directions.

January 18th: Caring Massage
Resource Person: Jan Alice Eldred
Place: State Mutual Savings
5116 E. 2nd St., Long Beach
213-438-5877

Directions: 405 Fwy to Bellflower, south to Pacific Coast Hwy, turn left (So.) to 2nd St. Right onto 2nd St. to above address. Between Nieto and Granada.

February 15th: Spiritual Lesbianism
Place: Glendale Federal Savings
100 Newport Center Drive,
Corona Del Mar

Directions: 405 Fwy to Jamboree, south to Pacific Coast Hwy, turn left (So.) to Newport Center Dr., Turn left onto Newport Center Dr.

The personal touch is our emphasis. Come, congregate, learn — then use it. Thanks for a great 1979.

Love Ya,
Judi Doyle (213) 438-5877

Orange County News

SCWU member Pam Bigelow, former Director of the Women's Law Center in Tustin, has been appointed Executive Assistant by Edison Miller, Supervisor, Third District, Orange County Board of Supervisors. As one of six "E.A.'s," her duties include legal public relations, county administrative items and the researching and writing of policy statements. Just for the record, right now she is Miller's unofficial gay liaison for the community. Both the Supervisor and Ms. Bigelow hope that this aspect of her job may develop into an official position.

Several appointment positions on a variety of Orange County Boards are now open. Some pay a stipend and require only a few hours per month. A few of these include: The Commission on the Status of Women, Senior Citizens Council, and Human Services Board of Directors. For more information call Ms. Bigelow at 714-834-3330. She makes the recommendations.

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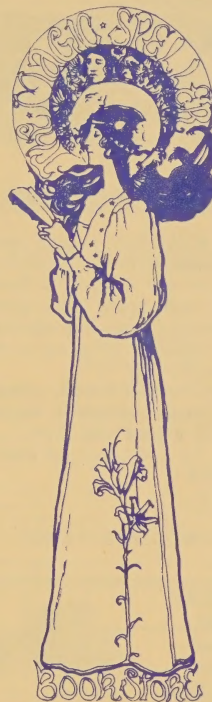
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Please do ☐ do not ☐ contact me by phone

Make check payable to: SCWU and mail to:
Southern California Women for Understanding
13033 Ventura Blvd., Suite L, Studio City, CA 91604

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Also for the protection of our members and guests, no cameras, tape recorders or other recording equipment are allowed at any of our social or fundraising events.

Ventura County

Hello From Ventura —

We are growing steadily and enjoying the process. This November we had a pot luck and sing along with music provided by several of our talented members.

We are planning a Holiday Open House for Dec. 15, and a Backgammon night on Jan. 13, 1980. Hope all of you will join us. For details call Keri at (805) 659-2639. Ventura. Our speaker in December will be Becky, an SCWU member and one of one thousand gay women who completed the questionnaires which were compiled and analyzed in *The Gay Report*. Several of Becky's answers are published in the book.

Friday, December 21, 1979 7:45
Topic: *The Gay Report*, review and discussion.

Resource Person: Becky Halonen
Location: 1492 Elsinor Ave., Ventura
Directions: Take 101 fwy. to Vineyard exit in Oxnard. Go towards Saticoy. Take left at 118. Continue to Telephone Rd. Go left. Opposite 7-11 store take left on Clay. Go to end and go left. Go to end. Elsinor on left.

Friday, January 18, 1980 7:45
Topic: Woman & Health
Resource Person: To be announced
Location: 486 Coronado St., Ventura
Directions: Take 101 fwy. to Seward exit. Go right on Seward to Ocean St. take left. Go over two blocks to Coronado. Go left.

ORIENTATION MEETINGS

New in SCWU? Want to know what's happening? Get involved? Or — just have a chance to talk together in small groups? The Membership Committee is having a series of orientation meetings for interested members or prospective members. Bring a friend. It's a good way to introduce them to the organization.

If you're interested in being invited please complete the attached and mail to: Membership—SCWU, 13033 Ventura Blvd., Suite L, Studio City, 91604. For information, call Shari Carroll (213) 990-0747.

ORIENTATION MEETINGS

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____

Nights available to attend
(check all available)

Mon. ☐ Tues. ☐ Wed. ☐ Thurs. ☐

Special Interest Programs

A series of "Special Interest Programs" (formerly called "Raps") are scheduled the second Friday of each month by Southern California Women for Understanding. These informal get-togethers are free to members of SCWU (women only, 18 or over). Non-member fee is \$2.00. Non-members may attend twice only. Further participation requires becoming a member (\$35 annual dues).

If you would be willing to have a Special Interest Program in your home, please call (213) 240-2275.

Programs are scheduled for 7:45 to 9:30, followed by a social hour, 9:30 to 10:30. (Similar programs are scheduled the third Friday of each month by The Southern Committee and The Ventura Group).

SCHEDULE AND LOCATIONS

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1979

Topic: Artsy Crafts: A fun pre-xmas session to make xmas/chanukah decorations.

Resource Persons: Members of the Board
Place: Pacific Oaks College
714 West California, Pasadena, CA
Directions: 134 fwy. to Orange Grove exit, south to California, turn right, last driveway on left (just before Arroyo) or Pasadena Fwy. to end, follow Arroyo to California, turn right.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 11, 1980

Topic: Gay Litigation
Resource Person: Susan McGreivy, Attorney for GCSC and ACLU
Place: Pacific Oaks College
714 West California, Pasadena, CA
Directions: See December

NEW! MEMBER RAP GROUPS

Are the Special Interest Programs getting too big for you? Do you want a chance to express your opinions — or to learn something new? Then come to one of our member only raps — attendance is limited and by pre-arrangement only. Just check the topics you're interested in and the evenings you are available and send in the form below to Membership - SCWU, 13033 Ventura Blvd., Suite L, Studio City 91604.

MEMBER RAPS

Name _____

Phone _____

Check interested topics:

☐ Women in Media ☐ Our Space Program

☐ Political Effectiveness ☐ Psychic

☐ Coping With Loss

☐ Note others _____

Even. available to attend

(Check all available)

☐ Mon. ☐ Tues. ☐ Wed ☐ Thurs. ☐ Fri.

SEASONS' GREETINGS

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A Happy Chanukah from....

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213 + 467-8911

DIGNITY/San Fernando Valley

Box 911
Van Nuys CA 91408
213 + 781-1370

EMERGENCE (Christian Science)

256 S. Robertson Blvd. Box 7467
Beverly Hills CA 90211
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CHANGING OF THE GODS

By Naomi Goldenberg
Beacon Press 1979

In order to rise out of oppression, one must name the real oppressor. Naomi Goldenberg has done just that. "Jesus Christ cannot symbolize the liberation of women. A Culture that maintains a masculine image for its highest divinity cannot allow its' women to experience themselves as the equals of men." In her book, *Changing of the Gods*, Ms. Goldenberg exposes the male mythology which institutionalizes sexism. She states that women must be willing to leave Yahweh, Jesus Christ and the Bible.

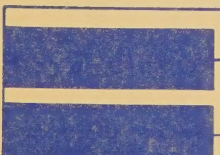
Along with an in-depth discussion of western religions, Freud and Jung receive attention. Drawing from Jung's belief that, "religion can only be replaced by religion," she moves on to constructs which internalize female authority images.

"My own respect for feminist witchcraft has grown over the last two periods of association with contemporary witches. I have come to understand that modern witches are using religion and ritual as psychological tools to build individual strengths. They practice a religion that places divinity or a supernatural power within the person. In a very practical way they have turned religion into psychology."

It's enlightening and refreshing to find an intelligent and academic approach to witchcraft practiced by feminists. Goldenberg asserts, "Witchcraft is the first modern theistic religion to conceive it's diety as an internal set of images and attitudes." With a hope for the future, Goldenberg also submits some new possibilities for religious needs such as models from literature and dream interpretation which allow for very personalized desires.

This book is a wonderful adventure into psychoanalysis and religion with woman as its primary concern.

Zoe Ann Ananda



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California Human Rights Advocates

With so many lesbian and gay political organizations to choose from, it's frequently difficult to decide which ones to join. California Human Rights Advocates is perhaps the most important political organization because they are the only ones who sponsor a full-time person lobbying, in the legislature, for the advancement of our rights. They are able to work closely with state representatives on important legislation by providing research, tactical support and committee testimony. CHRA members designed and use a computerized legislative reporting system considered to be the most sophisticated in the state.

In 1977 CHRA began as two organizations: Northern and Southern. A year later they united to become California Human Rights Advocates. In addition to the goals of encouraging state legislation favorable to us and discouraging unfavorable legislation, they also educate and inform our supporters, and us,

of pending legislation and appropriate action to be taken. By-laws include the active support of feminist legislation.

A major goal for this year is to provide greater outreach to the community via workshops which include the dissemination of information such as the steps a bill must go through to be passed, lobbying techniques, and what to say when you write to your representative.

Among those elected to the board at the July state conference were SCWU members Georgia Garrett-Norris and Pam Bigelow.

The recent Lights For Rights and the current March on Sacramento are CHRA projects. They contend that our rights will never make headway unless a permanent lobbying presence is felt in Sacramento. For further information contact: R. Jurina, 1348 N. Curson, L.A. 90046; or J. Boone, 2 Sunridge, Irvine, 92714.

Carol Urist

CIVIL RIGHTS UPDATE

State March: AB-1, the bill sponsored by Assemblyman Art Agnos which would protect California homosexuals from job discrimination, has been stalled again. If it does not get out of committee before the end of this legislative session, it dies. A state-wide March on Sacramento is planned for Sunday, January 13th, to be followed by a day of lobbying on Monday, January 14th, to encourage, urge, and demand support for AB-1.

Santa Clara Referendum: Santa Clara County and the city of San Jose face a Dade County-type fight on June 3, 1980. Fundamentalists and Republicans have gathered enough signatures to force a referendum on the two gay rights ordinances passed there this summer. If this referendum passes, other counties, — San Diego, Imperial, Orange — will be standing in line to do the same. A state-wide campaign is underway to raise money to help the Santa Clara Valley Coalition on Human Rights hire a campaign firm to win this battle.

Send contributions to California NOW, Inc. (mark check for Santa Clara Campaign) P.O. Box 3827, Orange, CA 92665; or send directly to the SCV Coalition on Human Rights, P.O. Box 26126, San Jose, CA 95159.

If, on the other hand, AB-1 were passed, then the Santa Clara issue or any others like it would be moot except for housing rights.



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PROCEDURES CHANGE

With the continuing growth of SCWU, the number of "contracting Members" investing time and energies in committees and programs also grows.

In order to keep track of all you wonderful women who are working so hard (and we all give you a warm and hearty thank you), we need to tighten up some accounting procedures.

If you were not at the Oct. 27th Interaction Meeting, you can get your "PARTICIPATION ACCOUNTING" forms and instructions from the head of your committee.

Contracting members and new members wishing to become contracting members also will need to complete a "Contracting Membership" form. This form indicates your current status or intent to be a contracting member and it lets us know the committee(s) with which you are connected.

Participation Accounting forms and Contracting Membership forms are available from committee heads or the Participation Accountant (781-7720).

Dee Brueske
Participation Accountant

WHAT CONTRACT?

Every member, new or old, is invited to become a *contracting member*. What this really means is that you'll be one of the DOERS — you'll be active in come way. Specifically it means that you agree to fulfill a "contract" of 50 hours a quarter of participation in SCWU committee work. You begin by writing the SCWU office, attention Dee Brueske (Participation Accountant) for your forms (see above), then, choose a committee (or suggest a new one!) that interests you. Contact the chair of that committee to indicate your interest and get an assignment. The committee chairs may be contacted through the SCWU office or you may find that the number to call direct is in the Newsletter. Now — have you done that little bit? Yes? You are now a *contracting member*.

There's more. Once you have fulfilled your contract — in other words, you've put in your 50 hours in a quarter — you become a *contracting member in good standing*. This means that you get to vote in elections for Board members, and in fact, it means you get to RUN for the Board; and the Board is where it all really happens. meantime, while you're planning your campaign, you still get to have some say at the quarterly Interaction Meetings between the Board and all *contracting members in good standing*. At these meetings, policy is discussed and plans made for future directions of the organization.

Suppose you don't have an opinion yet about policy or future directions? Get involved — you will! Suppose you don't have 50 hours available? Get involved — you'll be

surprised! The fun you'll have, the women you'll meet, the personal growth you'll experience, the exhilaration you'll feel, and the fantastic things you'll find yourself able to do — these are the reasons to begin.

SCWU HELP WANTED

(Note: *ALL the committees always welcome new people — but these were specific requests this month.*)

MEMBERSHIP: Contact Shari Carroll to help out with the SCWU Orientation Meetings for new members; they've been so popular and there are so many new members that she needs a few people willing to help. Call her at (213) 990-0747.

MEMBERSHIP: Contact Margo Strik if you're interested in an outreach to women who are still too closeted to join us, but want to know about us; also, if you're interested in being kind of "big sister" to a new member. Call (213) 258-1008.

PROGRAMS: Bev Kozlow needs a committee to help her locate places, people, and topics, help with delivery and cleanup at the Special Interest Programs. The first committee meeting has been scheduled for November 28. For information call her at (213) 240-2275 evenings or (213) 997-0101 X258 days.

FUNDRAISING: This committee is just starting and needs input, ideas, energy. It will be responsible for the formulation of plans for on-going fund raising activities. Call June Moore for information: (213) 483-4763 daytime.

NEWSLETTER: Needs someone to coordinate delivery of Newsletters to feminist and lesbian bookstores and organizations. And we always want new writers. Call June Mazer at (213) 791-4561.

SPEAKERS BUREAU: Shari Carroll is forming an SCWU Speaker's Bureau. Anyone wanting to participate, or having ideas and suggestions, please call her at (213) 990-0747.



Newsletter

Published bi-monthly in February, April, June, August, October and December. Editor: June Mazer, Feature Editor: Bunny MacCulloch, Graphics: Carol Porter, Staff: Dee Brueske, Sharon Colwell, Carol Urist and Elsi.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: JAN. 1

For advertising rates call June or Bunny at (213) 791-4561.

Members of SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WOMEN FOR UNDERSTANDING are mailed the Newsletter without cost. Non-members' annual subscription rate is \$5.00.

NOTICES

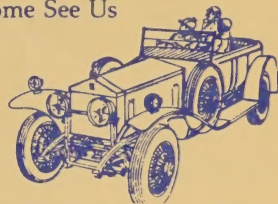
Barbara Donovan would like to see two SCWU Softball Teams shape up for playoffs. If you'd like to play or help organize, call her at 213—486-5218 days or 213—884-6253 evenings.

Diane Crocker is interested in starting a Lesbian Mothers' Group again. If you are interested call Dianne at 213—789-9407.

Even The Trees?

Yes, Virginia, there *is* a gay Christmas Tree Lot! Finally, you can hold hands while you do your holiday shopping at 825 N. San Vicente Blvd. in LA (1 block north of Santa Monica Blvd.). Top quality trees in all kinds and sizes will be on sale starting December 1st. The lot is sponsored by New Alliance for Gay Equality (New AGE) and the Lesbian Tide; purchases are tax deductible. For information or orders, call 213—829-7254 or just come Fir a look!

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COMMITTEES

Some committee — it doesn't *look* like a committee, doesn't *act* like a committee, but just the same it is "a group delegated to perform a function". That function is to produce this Newsletter, and therein lies a tale.

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Once upon a time in the far, far eastern reaches of the Greater Los Angeles Basin, there lived a crotchety extroverted editor named June Mazer. One day, while going through her fabulous hat collection (she had a hat for editor, a hat for feature editor, several different writer hats, a hat for advertising, a hat for circulation/distribution, a hat for billing/accounting, a few hats for dealing with typesetters, printers, and so forth, a hat for news gathering, a hat for budgeting — you name it, she had every damn hat in the book) well anyway, one day she thought, "This is for the birds!" those were her very words.

Now as it just happened, those were the very words that years before, one of the Good Fairies who frequent this area had said would cast a MAGIC SPELL. Of course we don't put too much stock in Fairy Stories nowadays, but still. . .

Ever since those words were uttered, the MAGIC SPELL has *worked!* Dee Brueske regularly writes editorials and columns; Sharon Colwell writes reviews and comments; Judy S. and Zoe Ananda write reviews; Bunny MacCulloch became Feature Editor and has *even* moved in to share the hat collection! Carol Urist writes from Orange County, Carol Porter told us how to look good, Margie Mullen and Margo Strik have said they'll take over advertising. People write to FORUM, we have occasional special reports, and we have our new writer "Elsi".

Talk about a MAGIC SPELL! This whole place was *ZAPPED!* Now, if you're feeling a strange, inexplicable compulsion, a pull, a draw toward the east, don't fight it. Just float with it, gently, softly, gracefully, to your nearest phone, and call June or Bunny at 213—791-4561. We understand.

We don't really have committee meetings as such, so if you want to Vork alone, this is the committee for you. If you have an idea, tell it; if you want to write, write it; and if you want one of those *other* hats be aware that they all have elastic headbands and could adjust to your size in a trice. (The circulation/distribution hat is just breath-taking, by the way.)

Next issue . . . the *Education Committee!*

Deadline for advertising copy and articles for next issue is January 1st.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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WANTED: Gay woman to share 2 bedroom apartment near Studio City. For more information call 213—876-5683.

WANTED — Roommate to share 3 Bdrm House in Costa Mesa. Call (714) 645-4151.

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Gloria Ramsey has recently returned from France and is accepting a limited number of recorder students (individual and group). Telephone 213—244-2241.

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What's Going On

Saturday, December 8 — SCWU Holiday Party, 8 PM; 2145 Micheltorena St., LA (between Silverlake and Hyperion). For information call 213—220-2275 or watch for your flyer.

Saturday & Sunday, December 8 & 9 — Craft Fair at the Women's Building, noon to 5 PM; call 213—221-6161.

Friday Night Rap Group, November 30, December 7, 14, and 28 — The Homosexual Experience: Rules, Roles and Relationships; at the Metropolitan Community Church, 1050 S. Hill St., LA; Jeri Ann Harvey, Pastor; 213—748-0121.

Monday, December 24 — Candlelight Christmas Eve Service at 10:30 PM; at MCC LA, see address and phone above.

Thursday, January 3 — Feminist Studio Workshop (offering classes in all the arts) reopens at the Women's Building. Submit applications by December 8; call Nancy Angelo at 213—221-6161.

Sunday & Monday, January 13 & 14 — March and Lobbying in Sacramento to push for passage of AB-1. For more information call Nancy Taylor 213—464-7400.

Tuesday, January 15 — deadline for participation in GALAS (Great American Lesbian Art Show) co-sponsored by GCSC and the Women's Building. Contact Terry Wolverton at 213—467-4893.

Tuesday, January 15th — deadline for submitting ads for the 1980 edition of **Women's Yellow Pages**. The directory will have a new Orang County Section this year. Write P.O. Box 149, Pasadena, Cal. 91102.

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THE ADVOCATE FEATURES RIDDELL AND SCWU

In its January 10th issue, THE ADVOCATE, most widely circulated national gay publication, featured Myra Riddell and SCWU in a two-page spread. As THE ADVOCATE caters primarily to males, most of our readers will have missed this excellent article. Space does not permit us to print it in full, but following are some excerpts:

Myra Riddell : Leading Lesbians To The Fore at SCWU

by Kim Garfield

On the night of Sept. 15, 1979, in an elegant ballroom at the Los Angeles Biltmore Hotel, a slice of history was about to be carved. The first Lesbian Rights Award was to be handed out to two distinguished members of the lesbian community while several hundred of their sisters shared the experience with much pride — and a few tears.

Many of the women who sat in the audience that night remembered what it was like some 25-odd years ago when the word "lesbian" was synonymous with the word "pervert." They remembered the pain, the hurt and the oppression of those days when even a visit to the local lesbian bar (if there was one) had them glancing furtively over the shoulder lest anyone discover their "secret."

Most of the women who sat in the audience that night have come a long way, baby. There were doctors, lawyers, writers, artists, teachers, therapists and on and on. Some had already come out of the closet way before Proposition 6 was defeated; some were just tiptoeing out. And some still preferred anonymity. Many had never joined a lesbian group, let alone participated in a march or demonstration on behalf of the gay rights movement. And they certainly had never witnessed the likes of a dressed-to-the-nines banquet for, by and about lesbian honor and courage and accomplishment. In a public ballroom

attended by many state and local nongay political leaders who supported the proceedings, yet!

But then, there's never quite been an organization like the Southern California Women for Understanding (SCWU), which made the historic evening possible in the

AGE. As a member of the Statewide No on 6 Committee, she campaigned vigorously to defeat the Briggs Amendment; most recently she was appointed to the L.A. County Commission on the Status of Women by Supervisor Ed Edelman. Her credentials are equally impressive. Riddell

Cont'd on page 6



Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin, winners of the Lesbian Rights Award, with Myra Riddell at a video-taping session. (See COMMITTEES, p. 9)

first place. SCWU, in fact, received a proclamation of its own jointly bestowed by Mayor Tom Bradley and City Council President Joel Wachs. SCWU is unique in that it's the first lesbian organization established to meet the need of that most invisible segment of the lesbian community—the successful career woman. And one of the guiding forces behind SCWU is a silver-haired woman with finely-chiseled features named Myra Riddell.

A native Californian, Riddell's political activism began on the campus of UCLA in the late '40s and early '50s. A psychology major (who later received a masters degree in social work), Riddell was in those days involved in everything from "picketing Sears because they weren't hiring blacks to throwing eggs at Nixon because his administration was refusing citizenship to Asians." She's been fighting for civil, human and gay rights ever since. In addition to chairing SCWU, Riddell serves on the advisory boards of MECLA and the Gay Community Services Center and is co-chair of New

COMMISSIONER BOTTINI

Congratulations to SCWU member Ivy Bottini! On December 14th Governor Brown appointed her as the first open lesbian to the State Commission on Aging, an advisory board to the Department of Aging.

"This Commission is really listened to; it has power to effect change," Ms. Bottini feels. Until her appearance, "no one had talked to *our* issues." Her job will involve a three-pronged effort — to have the public, state agencies and government structure understand the issues.

She also feels that the aged in our community have something to teach other aged. "We have, of necessity, developed certain survival techniques."

First she needs to hear from lesbians, 40 and older, about their experiences. Share your thoughts, concerns, fears, ideas. Write her at 614 N. Van Ness Ave., Los Angeles 90004.

San Gabriel Valley
Group Forming!
See page 10



AN INSIDER ON THE OUTSIDE

It was 10:15 Friday night. We passed beyond an unpainted door into a nicotine fogged entryway where we were greeted by the "Hospitality Committee," a young girl with a five-pound ring of keys dripping from a belt loop, demanding the required entry fee. We cast a quick "Is it worth it?" glance at one another and resignedly coughed up the cover charge.

We found a sizable crowd of young-to-middle-aged women. There were a few posturing at the billiard table, brandishing cue sticks like spears (very macho business); a handful of stool-warmers hunched over the bar; a dance floor peopled with bouncing bodies of all sizes and shapes; and the requisite cuddly couple smooching in a shadowed corner.

With drinks in hand, we carefully oozed through the dark forest of wandering souls to a safe spot against the wall near the dance floor. It was here, with the brutal disco noise driving through our skulls, as we sipped and watched and went through the preparation of mind and body before casting ourselves into the sea of dancing dykes, that we were struck by the atmosphere of oppressive insincerity. A strange sense of wrongness hung like a foul stench. We had come in laughing and anxious for a good time. In all of ten minutes, we were asking ourselves "What are we doing here?"

We were two gay women eyeball-deep in a roomful of other gay women . . . and we were NOT WELCOME. Neither was anyone else! This is the peculiar reality of the lesbian bar. Women gathered together in isolation. Whether you come alone, as a couple, or with two or three friends, that's the way you stay and that's the way you leave. Clearly, the lesbian bar is not a place for meeting or making friends. It is a zoo where we stand or sit or gyrate the time away, distantly observing one another, regarding every other person as an oddity (at best) or a petty criminal (at worst). Expressions are calculated to show nothing. One dares not look anyone in the eye, smile or attempt conversation — any of this is considered a direct assault. So, smiles are few and conversation is avoided or confined to one's own partner or group. In a straight bar or nightclub the atmosphere is ordinarily cordial and friendly —

men and women wanting to meet, pass the time together, or make a pick-up — and it is unusual not to chat with the people at the next table, but lesbians in the same setting appear awkward and dreadfully antisocial.

In spite of the affected indifference which is applied to these faces like cheap makeup, the air was filled with hostile suspicion and restrained anger. Instead of leaving our fears and angers at the door or channeling them into some kind of positive action, we cart them everywhere with us like a treasured pet and cannot seem to turn them loose even long enough to enjoy each other's company for a few hours at the end of the week. Is our mistrust so deep that we cannot relax even among ourselves?

In the entire hour-and-a-half we spent in this place, my friend and I had to be satisfied with entertaining ourselves (which we accomplished quite easily, but could have done just as easily somewhere else). This leaves me wondering why there are gay bars at all. Why do we seek each other out only to sever all chance for connection? Are we just blindly compelled to mimic straight society? Because heterosexuals use the bar as a social medium is it valid for us, too? Perhaps not. We must realize that merely occupying space under the same roof does not mean we are together.

I have not felt so little a part of a group in a long time and now (at 1:44 a.m.), as I settle down onto the soft quiet of my pillow, my ears still ringing from the disco din, I smile sadly as I drift off, thinking what I'm sure we have all thought on coming out of a gay bar: "Probably none of them are worth knowing anyway."

Elizabeth Turner

SUNDAY CHURCH? NOT ME!

Consider: The Mormon Church's recent decision to excommunicate Sonia Johnson for her support of the ERA; conservative Jews voting to ban women Rabbis; a group of protestant businessmen contributing thousands of dollars towards anti-homosexual political candidates; a spokesman for the Catholic Church saying "The Catholic church is not a group of free thinkers." These events have renewed my deep seated anger towards religion and makes me wonder if our learned theologians think at all.

As perpetrators of sheer folly, irrationality and avarice, our religious leaders must hold, if not the number one place, certainly a position near the top. We who are lesbians have probably suffered more private anguish and discrimination from our

churches and religious doctrine than from any other institution on earth.

This is NOT a carte blanche condemnation of any religious beliefs or church doctrine. It is my feeling that any individuals' private religious beliefs deserve the highest respect and protection. The first amendment rightfully guarantees freedom of religion. It also guarantees freedom FROM religion and this is where troubles begin. First amendment transgressions abound. We are constantly bombarded by church propaganda, unwanted, unsolicited, and detrimental to our peace of mind and self-image as lesbians.

This IS an attack on those individuals, religious leaders, and church groups who use their religion as a shield to ward off logic or as a guise for the commission of practices which deny basic human rights. Refusing birth control to an overpopulated world, placing women in subservient or inconsequential positions, overt discrimination of homosexuals are examples. How do you counter these attacks when the only rationale for their existence comes in statements such as: "the Bible says so," "God wills it," "that's tradition?" Is it any wonder that many of us have become indifferent to churches and skeptical of religious doctrine? Under these circumstances, why does any lesbian support traditional churches?

Theocracy should be replaced by humanness, ethics, and human rights with consideration of logic, human ramifications and good to society. Until this happens, churches are and will remain a rip-off.

LDA



Newsletter

Published bi-monthly in February, April, June, August, October and December. Editor: June Mazer, Feature Editor: Bunny MacCulloch, Graphics: Carol Porter, Staff: Dee Brueske, Carol Urst and Elsi. Advertising: Margie Mullen and Margo Strik.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: MARCH 1

Members of SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WOMEN FOR UNDERSTANDING are mailed the Newsletter without cost. Non-members annual subscription rate is \$5.00.

Advertising rates available upon request. Call Margo at (213) 258-6211 or 258-1008. Mail advertising copy (camera-ready) and checks to: SCWU Advertising, Box 348, Balboa Island, CA 92662.

Advertisements indicate a wish to serve the lesbian community and should not be construed as an indication of sexual preference of advertisers.



Just couldn't find her - I couldn't see her anyplace in that thick crowd at the party - the SCWU Christmas party. Suddenly, a voice:

"Do you need some help?"

"Well um - I'm looking for someone."

"Let's see - is it a woman?"

"Sure it's a woman?"

"Is she between 5' and 5'10'?"

"That's right."

"Let's see. Does she have short hair?"

"Well yes, as a matter of fact."

"Ah, good, I'm beginning to get a clearer picture. Is she wearing pants, by any chance?"

"You've seen her!"

"Maybe. Is she between, say 20 and 60?"

"Yes! That's the one!"

"Good, good, now we're getting a real handle on it."

"By the way, what's your name?"

"My name's Marvel."

"I'm not surprised - you've really helped me out."

"Oh, that's OK - good luck!"

"Thanks again!"

ORIENTATION MEETINGS

New in-SCWU? Want to know what's happening? Get involved? Or - just have a chance to talk together in small groups? The Membership Committee is having a series of orientation meetings for interested members or prospective members. Bring a friend. It's a good way to introduce them to the organization.

If you're interested in being invited please complete the attached and mail to: Membership—SCWU, 13033 Ventura Blvd., Suite L, Studio City, 91604. For information, call Shari Carroll (213) 990-0747.

ORIENTATION MEETINGS

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____

Nights available to attend
(check all available)

Mon. ☐ Tues. ☐ Wed. ☐ Thurs. ☐

Editorials Editorials Editorials Editorials Edi

EVEN OUR OWN RANKS NEED A CLEAN UP

Most of us spend a chunk of our lives in the oppressive straight world. Many of us join organizations and work on committees to shatter stereotypic myths and improve the quality of our lives.

For all the oppression and discrimination we fight against, I find myself getting more angry and frustrated when I come up against discrimination within our own ranks.

There are increasing reports throughout our own community of racist, sexist and agist discrimination. Examples most commonly encountered are those against women ("no open-toed shoes"), three identifications required of minorities and the elderly lesbian/gay being "too old to enter" or told "the crowd isn't your type."

Allegations of discrimination filter in from a variety of areas and places but center on the admission policies of many establishments in the Hollywood area.

Some bar and discotheque owners insist their policies protect and give comfort to their clientele. Protection and comfort against what or against whom? Such discrimination is a tear in the fabric of human rights.

Councilman Joel Wachs (author of the new gay rights ordinance of L.A.) took the lead in July by calling for an end to such discriminatory practices. A.C.L.U. has mailed some 200 letters to establishments asking that they comply with a policy of non-discrimination or face legal action.

I urge all of us to not stand back. When you encounter such practices, if you

merely say nothing and take your social activities elsewhere the establishment that discriminated against you will just continue its practices with your license. Don't let it happen! Make a phone call. Write a letter both to the establishment and by all means to A.C.L.U. Contact your local resource or lesbian/gay organization and have them write a letter of protest.

Education against discrimination begins at the individual level. Hundreds and thousands of individuals actively communicating carry clout and make for a movement.

Dee Brueske

Notice of Arts and Crafts Show Coming In June!

If you'd like to have a display and sale area for your photographs, paintings, crafts, poems, or whatever, please contact Judy at 213- 240-2275.

FEMINIST HORIZONS has moved. We do mail order *ONLY* with hundreds of feminist gift items such as, encounterbats t.m. jewelry, t-shirts, buttons, ceramics, leather, posters, vibrators, bumper stickers, etc. Send 25¢ for our mail order catalog to: **FEMINIST HORIZONS, 965 Elizabeth Street, Pasadena, CA 91104.**



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Republicans concerned
about human rights



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Southern California

Physicians For Human Rights

You are hunched in the emergency room, terrified. The pain in your chest is agonizing. The doctor, businesslike, considers the possibility of a lung clot.

"Are you taking birth control medication?"

"No," you hear yourself saying, "I'm a lesbian." Your life is at stake and this is no time to be coy. The doctor reacts in slow motion, or you notice it in slow motion, you can't tell which. He leaves.

You groan. Moments later, his professional composure restored, the doctor re-enters; he takes your hand.

"Now tell me dear, what seems to be the trouble?"

* * *

The TROUBLE is, that until 1974, all doctors were actually taught in medical school that homosexuality was a disease. So if your doctor isn't a very recent graduate, you could very well find yourself in a situation where your life-threatening symptoms might take a back seat to your more challenging illness - homosexuality. After all, cases of pleurisy are a dime a dozen.

Don't imagine that this story is untrue, or an isolated incident, or that it happened long ago. The fact, according to Dr. Jane Patterson, is that similar incidents are happening now and happening often. A doctor becomes so boggled by the issue of homosexuality that he or she cannot focus on the symptoms or the remedy. It is quite possible now, today, to consult a physician for a severe bleeding problem and be sent to a psychologist. It isn't enough to say to yourself, "but my doctor doesn't KNOW I'm a lesbian!" There are many times when that is relevant information for your care; there are many possibilities for you to make the admission under stress, or for your lover to make it; and worst of all, you may avoid seeking care because of this whole issue.

But now there's an answer: a group of doctors called SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PHYSICIANS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. For obvious reasons, doctors are as reluctant to be open as anyone else, and this group therefore does not claim to be 100% gay. But it does claim to be mostly gay, supportive of gays, and to provide compassionate care, hassle free care, care that looks to the ailment and not to the issue of homosexuality.

Cut or copy this information: the phone number is the most important, because it is a referral service that will get

you the name of a physician in your area in the type of practice you need. There are generalists and specialists in many southern California areas represented. Call 213-858-6767. That number is staffed; it isn't a recording. There is also a mailing address, unstaffed at present, but from which mail is regularly collected: 7985 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 109, Los Angeles 90046.

If you are a physician, a medical student, or if you know someone who is one, the organization is seeking members. Membership is confidential and one may join using first name only, or an assumed name; supporters are also welcome (doctors or medical students only - not allied fields). The group is about 10% women, which reflects the percentage of women in medicine generally; there are currently 140 members, of whom only 8 are "open". Like SCWU, the organization is "public" but the individual members are private. In September, they had a coming-out press conference widely shown on TV, and since then the open members have been on many talk shows and done many interviews.

The moving forces behind Southern California Physicians for Human Rights were Doctors Ben Teller and Jane Patterson. At the first meeting, 6 of them listed other doctors whom they knew or thought were gay; each wrote two invitations and in each, enclosed 5 extra copies. There were 30 at the second meeting; then 60; then 120. They invited a spokesperson from the San Francisco Physicians for Human Rights (then two years old) to come down and give advice. After the San Francisco group went "public" with a press conference, the membership tripled. If that happens here, more areas will be covered and more specialties will be available.

An important purpose of the group is outreach to other doctors; to this end they maintain a speakers bureau and have given lectures to hospital staffs (including topics like sensitivity to the needs of same-sex partners, who have the same reasons to be distraught and worried as does a husband or wife), and to medical groups and associations. They will also lecture in medical schools. Dr. Patterson explained that medical schools do indeed have "sexuality" classes, but they are VOLUNTARY.

As a result of all this activity, the group is getting many requests for information and is beginning to get referrals of gay patients from non-gay doctors. In spite of the radio and TV coverage, in spite of the non-gay press coverage, even in spite of the GAY press coverage, not enough lesbians are aware that this referral service is available - that CARE is available. Compassionate, considerate, informed care is finally one of our rights too. Call 213-858-6767.

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BOOK REVIEW

THE LESBIAN COMMUNITY

By Deborah Goleman Wolf
University of California Press.
Berkeley 1979
\$12.95 196 pages

Most of us pick up a book about "lesbians" with the hope of finding ourselves discussed accurately, positively and humanely. The women portrayed and revealed through this research report were vigorous, pioneering and loving. Dr. Wolf obviously developed a strong sense of respect and pride for this community of women as she lived and worked with them over a two year period. The title is a bit misleading, since the book really is focused on only one segment of the lesbian community, the lesbian - feminist. This study had as its setting, San Francisco, a city known for its high concentration of gay men and women. Dr. Wolf presented the estimated population of 1977 San Francisco as 715,000 which included about 200,000 homosexual men and women. No estimates were given for the number of lesbians within that 200,000, although she indicated the men greatly outnumbered the women. About 2-5 thousand lesbian-feminists were actively involved in the community at any given time, and it was to this community of activist lesbian-feminists that this study was directed.

The first third of the book described the fieldwork experience of participant observation and interviews; reviewed the relevant literature briefly and well; and presented background information on the lesbian-feminist movement, a movement developed out of both gay liberation and feminism. The chapters which described "The Community" and illustrated two community projects form the heart of this book. Here Wolf's sensitivity in depicting everyday life alongside the symbols and dress of survival and identification allow us to find a piece of ourselves in this work. Her description and analysis of friendship networks as surrogate families have the potential of being a major theoretical development. On the other hand, it is in this section that the distorted stereotype of "feminism must equal poor" is offered, without critical reflection. Is financial success (within modest dimensions) or professional attainment and stature always antithetical with feminism? Certainly as portrayed in this work, they seem incompatible. I believe this should not lie unchallenged as an assumption; Wolf's apparent lack of searching for a section of the lesbian-feminist community who

were also affluent, or at least were enjoying 'success' within established systems extended the bias that feminism can only exist outside established structures. This was the major limitation of the book as I saw it.

A chapter on lesbian mothers was well presented, although narrowly conceived. The final chapter on world view attempted to extend the views presented to a larger context; it was not really needed. The bibliography is complete and well chosen. I like this book a lot, and I believe it will become established as a primary reference on the lesbian-feminist community.

Judith S.

We Know You're Out There!

The Lesbian Mothers Group is anxious to start. If you'd like to participate, please call Diane Crocker at 213-789-9407.

"CHALLENGE OF THE 80S" ATTRACTS OVER 600 AT UCLA

More than 600 participants joined together to sum up the 70s and plan for the 80s at GAU-6, the Sixth National Conference of the Gay Academic Union, held November 23-24 at UCLA. This year's conference was co-sponsored by The Whitman Brooks Foundation. Keynoters Malcolm Boyd and Charlotte Bunch headed two days of panels, workshops, presentations, and awards. 84 panels, organized into five sessions, made this possibly the largest gay academic conference ever presented. The Conference culminated in a soldout Awards Banquet at Hollywood's Circus Disco.

Awardees for 1979 were: Humanitarian Award - Abigail (Dear Abby) Van Buren; Performing Arts Award - Meg Christian; Literature Award - Christopher Isherwood; E.C. Hooker Research Award - Letitia Anne Peplau, Susan Cochran, Karen Rook, Christine Padesky (UCLA Dept. of Psychology); Fine Arts Award - Paul Cadmus; Theory Development Award - Vivienne Cass; Special Recognition Award - Gov. Edmund G. Brown, Jr.; President's Award - Donald C. Knutson, of Gay Rights Advocates; Founders Award (from GAU/Los Angeles) - Betty Berzon; Whitman-Brooks initiated their Trustee's Award this year. GAU began their awards program in 1978.

More information about upcoming events and activities of Whitman-Brooks is available by writing them at 856 N. Westmount #7, Los Angeles, CA 90069, or calling (213) 657-8282. GAU's National Office is located at P.O. Box 927, Los Angeles, CA 90028; or call (213) 656-0258.

I AM®

by Sophia Potoka

I am weak . . .

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my skin

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my lips

Books burn
my eyes

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my clitoris

Exercise wrecks
my bones

Flowers tickle
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Whiskey nauseates
my stomach

and love . . .

Love disrupts
my brain

I am the most beautiful thing!

MEMBER RAP GROUPS

Are the Special Interest Programs getting too big for you? Do you want a chance to express your opinions — or to learn something new? Then come to one of our member only raps — attendance is limited and by pre-arrangement only. Just check the topics you're interested in and the evenings you are available and send in the form below to Membership - SCWU, 13033 Ventura Blvd., Suite L, Studio City 91604.

MEMBER RAPS

Name _____

Phone _____

Check interested topics:

☐ Women in Media ☐ Our Space Program

☐ Political Effectiveness ☐ Psychic

☐ Coping With Loss

☐ Note others

Evenings available to attend

(Check all available)

☐ Mon. ☐ Tues. ☐ Wed. ☐ Thurs. ☐ Fri.

"ADVOCATE" features Riddell & SCWU
Continued from page 1

has maintained a successful private practice in psychotherapy since 1959. She's a licensed hypnotherapist and a Marriage and Family Counselor in the State of California. But it's SCWU that is most dear to her heart and in the warm, unpretentious living room of her hilltop home—surrounded by two poodles, two dachshunds and a German shepherd—she talked about the group's beginnings, its philosophy and its goals. . .

The gay movement up to three years ago was primarily made up of men. There were a hell of a lot of women with influence who were financially secure and who needed to lend their influence to the movement. The lesbian community was and still is the most invisible. And if you're going to break down stereotypes and myths, which is our aim, then the nongay public needs to know that there are those of us who are doctors, dentists, lawyers, therapists, executives and all sorts of professionals. If nongays think about women in the movement, they think in stereotypes; they think that a lesbian is a woman who wants to be a man. And they are consistently surprised to find out otherwise. . .

We don't put pressure on anyone to become public. SCWU's philosophy is that it's a personal decision. People have different risks and different degrees of reality that constitute risks in their lives. We do encourage them to participate in the organization and the support groups so that they don't feel isolated, as well as to have fun and lend their energies. Hopefully, they'll build up their own inner security to the point where they'll want to become public," said Riddell.

During its first two years of operation,

Myra Riddell and Dr. Jane Patterson were the only two SCWU members who were open. Many members used only first names; some joined under assumed names, feeling that their lives would be absolutely destroyed if they participated in anything public. "They've gradually taken little tiny steps and found that it just isn't so," Riddell smiled, and related an incident to prove her point. SCWU threw a cocktail party at the Century Plaza Hotel during the No on 6 campaign to inform community leaders of its dangers. Many SCWU members served as hostesses at the party and TV cameras were not allowed in. When one showed up anyway, Riddell gave her fellow members the choice of leaving the party. "Eleven stayed, including two career Army officers who shrugged and said, 'Fuck it. It's about time.'" . . .

While SCWU has become nationally known and while no comparable organization exists (i.e., a lesbian group that appeals to the professional and business woman), when it came to naming its first annual award, there was concern about calling it the Lesbian Rights Award. "We were concerned that the word 'lesbian' would discourage the media from covering the event, and we were fairly correct about that. Especially with regard to the print media. We clearly identify ourselves as a lesbian organization in all of our literature. We do a lot of consciousness-raising and we encourage self-identification—to be proud of it and comfortable with it," said Riddell.

Are there any nonlesbian members? "I don't know. We don't ask. I've talked to a lot of women on the phone who say they're not quite sure where they're at and want to find out. Married women as well have called with a need to explore. We have no restrictions on that score." . . .

Our big problem in the gay and lesbian community—and that is *finally* changing—is that in the beginning we were labeled an elitist group. Every time I spoke in public that charge was leveled. They accused us of not appealing to everybody, of not having more women of color. We're open to *everyone* . . . but everything we've done has been directed toward the woman who can afford to pay the dues (now \$35 per year) and attend functions at places where it costs (like the ERA benefit luncheon and the Morris Kight testimonial dinner). The women that we're appealing to are not going to go down to Troupers Hall. They don't go to the kinds of gay and lesbian activities that don't match up to their own personal and social lifestyles. So, yes, I guess we are elitist in that sense. We want women in this organization who can bring that element of the lesbian community to the fore, with all they know and with all of the contacts they have. We're finally building a network where women will say "I want a lesbian stockbroker, or physician or lawyer or therapist." And there were a lot of years when there were only four openly lesbian therapists in L.A. I was one of the first to go on the GCSC referral list. Now, about half our membership are therapists."

As a practicing psychotherapist, Riddell counsels both gay and nongay patients. Nor did her nongay patients so much as bat an eye when she announced to them that she was trekking off to the White House in

(Continued next page)



A Concert In Support of the Alcoholism Center for Women.

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SCWU

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(optional)

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Check appropriate box(es):

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☐ Send me 6 issues of the Newsletter. My check for \$5.00 is enclosed.

Please do ☐ do not ☐ put me on mailing list

Please do ☐ do not ☐ contact me by phone

Make check payable to: SCWU and mail to:
Southern California Women for Understanding
13033 Ventura Blvd., Suite L, Studio City, CA 91604

OUR MAILING LIST IS COMPLETELY CONFIDENTIAL AND NOT LENT TO ANY OTHER ORGANIZATION.

Also for the protection of our members and guests, no cameras, tape recorders or other recording equipment are allowed at any of our social or fundraising events.

1977 as one of 12 gays in the U.S. attending a conference on discrimination. Riddell considers herself "a pretty free-swinging therapist" who works with what is needed to suit the individual: "I'm reality-oriented; my background is in behaviorism, but I'm very much into the whole human potential movement. I like the philosophy that says you don't have to be sick to get better because I don't believe in labeling people as 'sick.' I've had Gestalt training, transactional analysis training and neo-Reichian training. I've tasted it all and I don't believe in being held to one specific technique."

She also does a "fair amount" of couple counseling—both gay and nongay; and when she's not seeing patients or attending meetings at SCWU, MECLA, New AGE and the County Commission on the Status of Women, you're likely to find her puttering around the garden, bicycle riding, out fishing, or entertaining friends around the pool.

But political activism is her life and she "hopes to continue my influence. I think that it's very important that openly gay men and lesbians who have the background and the qualifications move into political positions. And when they're comfortable enough to be public with themselves, that's where they're going to accomplish a hell of a lot of image-changing."

CLASSIFIED

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THE FEMINIST WICCA is looking for investors. Wants women with business background. We have 6 yrs. business exp. Solvent. Growing Time. Contact Annu Tues, Thurs, Sat. 339-3919; Mon, Wed, Fri 455-1464. 442 Lincoln Blvd., Venice, CA 90291.

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WANTED IN ORANGE COUNTY — good and patient dance teacher to regularly show and practice dance steps from fox trot to disco, in exchange for legitimate Swedish Massage (in business 3 yrs.). Call (714) 972-9576.

By The Board

*** The Board approved registration of SCWU as an organization supporting the march on Sacramento.

*** An Ad Hoc committee has been established to explore and develop procedures on photo taking for major SCWU events.

*** It was recommended and approved that a cleaning person be hired for major social functions.

*** Statement of Intent to Become a Contracting Member and Participation Accounting forms have been returned from the Procedures Committee and adopted and approved by the Board.

*** Sylvia Clark has been appointed Board liason to the Speakers' Bureau.

*** "We are proud of ourselves and proud of you," Myra said to ACLU lesbian attorney Susan McGrievy. She was referring to the \$1000 contribution made by SCWU toward Susan's salary, which ACLU could not fund unaided by our community. We're backing a dynamo!

*** SCWU will soon have logo tee shirts. Logo, costs and resale are now being researched by committee.

*** Dee Brueske has been appointed Board liason to the SCWU Directory which is in its initial formation stages.

*** By-Laws for tax exempt status in accordance with laws of incorporation have been returned to the Board for final approval.

Professional Directory

barbara kreedman, m.s.w., l.c.s.w.
psychotherapist

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COMMITTEES

Who had the gall to choose, as a first project, the Lesbian Rights Award Dinner — and the talent and coordinating skill to make it such a fabulous event? (If you weren't there, see "Advocate" article, page 1.) What is important enough to entice half the Board to another committee meeting each month? Where can you get involved in the very essence of SCWU? Meet:

THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Chair: Susan Gross

It started last March with a brainstorming session. The 7th idea on a long list was: "honor outstanding lesbians." Once the decision was made, everything else on the list went on the back-burner. By September 15th this group of dedicated women, led by the incredible driving force of Susan Gross, had burned themselves and everyone else out — but in

the proverbial blaze of glory.

Now they're back together again — meeting the 3rd Thursday of each month — perusing the rest of that list and making a new one. SCWU is a non-profit, educational organization and this is the group that focuses on that most directly. What are the best methods for educating the non-gay community? — the lesbian community? — our own members? What are our priorities? Every idea has to be examined from a philosophical as well as a practical point of view.

Too many ideas, too much to be done in one meeting a month. Most projects will be implemented by sub-committees.

There is the videotape of Myra interviewing Del and Phyllis — two hours of tape shot in September — which now will be edited into a temporary form for educational showings. Future plans include further videotaping of other leaders and events in the lesbian community until eventually we will have a full-length SCWU tape.

A new sub-committee is forming to

create a slide show designed to raise the consciousness of Health Care personnel responsible for the care of gay and lesbian patients. This will involve script writing, photography, production and distribution. (If you have talent in these areas call June Mazer at (213) 791-4561.)

Other projects in the formative stages are an educational outreach to the non-gay religious community, development of a lesbian oral-history archive (which will include workshops on interviewing), and organizing a new consciousness-raising group.

And just in case it's going in too many different directions, the committee's February meeting will be devoted to an in-depth discussion of its purpose, parameters and preferred focus.

It's not surprising that so many Board members have joined the Education Committee. (8 out of 11 members are currently on the Board.) The possibilities are challenging and exciting. Come join us. Call Susan at (213) 394-0857.

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Whats Going On Whats Going On Whats Going On Whats Going On

The Gay Services Division of the Self Center, in Orange, will present an Orange County Gay and Lesbian Resource Day on Feb. 9th. Organizations not available in O.C. will be invited to present information about themselves, so that, along with local organizations, we can all share information. This day long event with more than thirty organizations presenting info will take place at Cal. State Fullerton. The cost is \$10 per person. Phone: 714-997-9600.

A Valentine's Celebration all-women's Dance, preceded by a Califia Community re-union, pot luck and meeting, will be held Saturday, February 9 at the Church in Ocean Park, 235 Hill St., in Santa Monica. All who attended Califia Collective sponsored conferences in the last 3 years are encouraged to reunite and bring a favorite dish to share. Potluck is 5:00 p.m., meeting at 6:30 p.m. The Dance, open to all women, will start at 8 p.m. Admission is \$2.50, no one turned away for lack of funds; child care provided for all events.



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5520 E. SECOND ST LONG BEACH

Volunteers are needed for the Gay/Lesbian Hotline of the Gay Community Services Center. Hotline Counselor Training is provided. For further information call (213) 464-7400 Mon - Fri after 7 p.m. Ask for the Hotline.

A new Lesbian and Gay Repertory Theatre Company has formed, calling itself "Apollo's Mice". While preparing for its premiere season to start this spring, it is available for private performances and fund-raisers. For more information call Ron Hitchcock at (213) 664-1506.

A concert featuring Diane Lindsay and Meg Christian, in support of the Alcoholism Center for Women, will take place Saturday, March 1 at 8 PM; Frost Auditorium in Culver City. Tickets are \$6 — available at the Women's bookstores or call (213) 381-7805.

A new lesbian-owned company is looking for "sensuous/erotic lesbian poetry." Will pay for poems accepted for publication. For information call Margo Strik at (213) 258-6211 or 258-1008.

CIVIL RIGHTS UPDATE

As we go to press, gay men and lesbians from all over California are congregating in Sacramento to push for passage of AB-1, the employment rights bill. This bill comes up for a final vote on the floor of the Assembly in January and if it does not pass, dies.

The fate of this bill will profoundly affect the battle in Santa Clara County to defeat the anti-gay referendum on the June ballot. More on this in the next issue.

Meanwhile, send your contribution to California NOW, Inc., P.O. Box 3827, Orange, CA 92665 (Mark check for Santa Clara campaign).

WEST HOLLYWOOD PRESBYTERIAN

... if you thought you didn't like church

Worship: Sunday 11 AM

Bible Study: Wednesday 7:30 PM

7350 Sunset (at Martel)

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Fine Lines copy and graphics.

From L.A. County call Virginia at (213) 432-3391
From Orange County call Carol at (714) 538-0965

Special Interest Programs

A series of "Special Interest Programs" (formerly called "Raps") are scheduled the second Friday of each month by Southern California Women for Understanding. These informal get-togethers are free to members of SCWU (women only, 18 or over). Non-member fee is \$2.00. Non-members may attend twice only. Further participation requires becoming a member (\$35 annual dues).

If you would be willing to have a Special Interest Program in your home, please call (213) 240-2275.

Programs are scheduled for 7:45 to 9:30, followed by a social hour, 9:30 to 10:30. (Similar programs are scheduled the third Friday of each month by The Southern Committee and The Ventura Group).

SCHEDULE AND LOCATIONS:

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1980

Topic: Realistic vs. Romantic Love
Resource: Dianne Abbott, Attorney
(& lesbian mother)
Location: 19204 Cantara, Reseda
Directions: *Ventura Freeway West, exit Tampa turn right, stay on Tampa until 1 block before Roscoe turn right on Cantara 993-0615*

FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 1980

Topic: Lovers, Canines & Felines Too
Resource: Dee Brueske, Canine Behaviorist
Location: 541 Stassi Lane, Santa Monica
Directions: *San Diego to Santa Monica Freeway West to Pacific Coast bear right to Entrada Drive (2nd light), turn right, continue uphill to Stassi Lane, turn right. Parking on street is tight. 459-4004*

FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 1980

Topic: Recycling Dollars Back Into Our Community.
Resource: Susan Gross, Stock Broker
Location: See February

**Start Saving Articles For
SCWU's Spring Garage Sale!**



Southern California

Physicians for Human Rights

Speakers Bureau
&
Referrals for Gay and Lesbian Health Care
(213) 858-6787

7985 Santa Monica Blvd. Suite 109 Los Angeles, CA 90048

San Gabriel Valley

A group of eight women met recently with the intent of starting a San Gabriel Valley group. Myra and Sharon attended, lending their effective and efficient hands, to lay out the format to be followed. The ground work has begun and hopes are high for a bigger turnout at the next meeting. The San Gabriel area extends as far west as Pasadena and Monterey Park, south to Whittier and the Orange County line, and as far east as there are members. If you live in this locale and are interested in being a part of the San Gabriel Chapter, call me at 213-335-5791.

MARCH 7 - Orientation Rap at 8:00 p.m.

Resource Person - Sharon Tobin
Place - 2130 Canterbury Lane
Glendora

Directions - *210 Fwy east to Lone Hill off, left to Foothill, right two blocks, right to first left to address or
210 Fwy west to Allen off, left to Lone Hill, right to Foothill, right two blocks, right to first left to address.*

RET

Ventura County

Hello from Ventura — A new year begins and with it a new decade. Working together we're going to make this the best year and the brightest decade yet.

We are beginning 1980 with a series of dynamic SCWU programs dealing with the realities of our lives. In February, Lydia R., student in Sociology at U.C. Santa Barbara, and Virginia L., technical writer, editor and free lance writer, will lead a panel discussion on "How SCWU can give emotional support to its members."

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1980 - 7:30

Place: 201 W. Vineyard Ave., Apt. 2
Directions: *Take 101 Fwy. to Vineyard exit. Go left, cross Oxnard Blvd., one block to Edelweiss. Apartment building is on right corner (1-8) on front.*

In March, Diane M., an SCWU member, will review the book, "Games Mother Never Taught You; Corporate Gamesmanship for Women."

FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 1980 - 7:30

Place: 2154 Olga Street, Oxnard
Directions: *Take 101 Fwy. to Vineyard exit. Go left to Oxnard Blvd, take next right on Gonzales. Right on Patricia St. (one block past Ventura Rd.). Right on Carmen. Right on Olga.*

On February 9th we're planning a Valentines Dance for all SCWU members and their guests. By March we should all be ready for another game night. Contact Keri, (805) 659-2639, for more information on these.

Southern Committee

Congratulations on behalf of SCWU to all of you who survived the holidays. I personally wish to express my warmest appreciation to our Social Chair, Marcie J. and her committee for all the fine work they demonstrated for our December Holiday Party. It was a gala event that was grandly enjoyed in style by our wonderful membership.

Just a note here to state that the Steering Committee has positions open. If any member in the Southern Section feels that they would like to provide concentrated, high-quality service in good company, please notify any member of the Steering Committee. We are accepting resumes/vitas highlighting your organization skills. This is an exhilarating organization with a real sense of purpose. A personal purpose. Yours and ours to share.

Some events coming up, besides a Health Faire in early spring and a Harbor Cruise Dinner, are:

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1980 7:30

Topic: Spiritual Lesbianism
Resource Person: Zoe Ann Ananda
Place: Glendale Federal Savings
100 Newport Center Drive, Corona
Del Mar
Directions: *405 Fwy to Jamboree, south to Pacific Coast Hwy., turn left (So.) to Newport Center Dr., Turn left onto Newport Center Dr.*

FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 1980 7:30 p.m.

Topic: Human Rights Agenda for 1980
Resource Person: Karen Peters
Place: State Mutual Savings, 5116 E. 2nd St., Long Beach.
Directions: *405 Fwy to Bellflower Blvd., South to Pacific Coast Hwy, turn left (So.) to 2nd st., turn right onto 2nd. to above address. Between Nieto and Granada.*

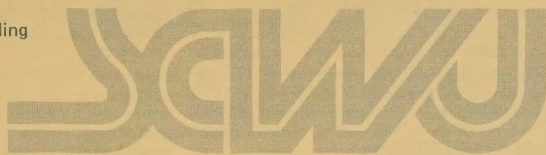
FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 1980 7:30 p.m.

Topic: To Be Announced.
Resource Person: Diane Abbott and Bobbie Bennett
Place: See February.

This year of 1980 has great promise for all of us. We are expanding and marveling at the breadth we seem to energetically accommodate. It feels incredibly grand to associate with other women of sincerity, intelligence and commitment. SCWU is the guiding force behind our efforts and with that channel our momentum is building. Be a part of this exciting experience.

If you need any information call me.
Love ya, Judi Doyle
(213) 438-5877

PYRAMID ENERGY IS COMING!



(213) 784-9160 or 784-5584
13719 Ventura Blvd., Suite D
Sherman Oaks, California 91423

What Really Happened in Copenhagen

Second World Conference of the United Nations: Decade for Women

Copenhagen, Denmark
July 14 through 31, 1980

By
Estilita Grimaldo

Estilita, an SCW Steering Committee Member in 1976-77, is founder of WOMANTOURS, INC. and led a tour group to the Copenhagen Conference.

On July 13, 1980, thousands of women from all over the world converged on the fairytale city of Copenhagen to participate in the United Nations Second World Conference of Women, and in the Non-Governmental Organizations Forum which was held simultaneously, sponsored by the National Danish Council of Women. Also, artists from all over the world arrived in Copenhagen to take part in the First Annual Women's International Festival of the Arts.

Registration began that Sunday and the entrance to the Amager Centre of the University of Copenhagen was already sparking with the presence of handsome and variedly-clad women from all over the world. There were our friends from the African Continent, friends we had made five years ago in Mexico; there were the women from India in their silken saris; businesswomen in woolen suits; activists in blue jeans and jackets of all ethnic backgrounds; housewives; mothers pushing baby carriages; women in polyester pantsuits; we were all there. Registration was simple and efficient. Assignment of rooms for the different workshops was in the hands of one woman.

A woman wanting to conduct a workshop would get a room, date and time assigned and she would have to promote her own Topic. Flyers were passed out by hand, hung on pillars, on walls, wherever there was space. A daily paper was published and passed out free of charge, which also listed the many workshops taking place each day. By Monday morning we had about 20 workshops going on simultaneously all the time, from the 14th through the 24th, when the forum closed; the UN Conference and Art Festival continued till the 31st.

On Tuesday, signs went up about Child Care. No provisions had been made prior to the Conference. By Wednesday a Child Care program had been set up and it was all properly organized and in the hands of volunteers.

Women began to run out of money. Collection boxes were set up so that women had money for food. The women of Denmark opened up their homes for those who could no longer afford to pay for their rooms in hotels and boarding houses. Copenhagen is a city where even the water has to be bought. A cup



Lesbians from all over the world stormed the stage at the International Women's Festival. A manifesto was read in Danish, English and Spanish: "We have given our energies to men for too long." Thousands of women, children and men attended the festival at Faelledparken in Denmark on July 21, 1980, held in conjunction with the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women. Hands clasped overhead in the shape of a triangle, an ancient symbol of the goddess and symbol of the vulva, women sang lesbian songs in Swedish and Danish.

—Photo by Mary McNally

of coffee costs \$2 and a thin slice of cheese about \$1.75. However, by the 20th, when part of our group was ready to return, very few women from the Forum were still staying at hotels.

It seemed that the most pressing problem was the torture and persecution of women in various countries. To give you a better idea of how the forum worked: The group called Amnesty International scheduled a Workshop on Torture and had a sign-up sheet prior to the Workshop so that women who had either experienced torture personally or had first-hand accounts of torture to women would be given the opportunity to share their experiences. The time allotted to the session was divided equally among the number of women that signed up so that we began the workshop with ten minutes for each woman. The most clear and direct appeal was made by a sister from South Africa who requested that we not photograph her, as her life was in danger and she might be killed right there in Denmark, for giving her account. She requested the women from the four countries which she considers are backing the apartheid regime of South Africa (England, Israel, Denmark and the United States) to go back to their countries and get petitions going to the governments requesting that they cease to uphold the apartheid regime of South Africa.

(continued on page 10)

Political Theme Auction Set for October

October 26th is the day! Eat an early breakfast then come to the SCWU annual auction. A political theme has been chosen for this election year auction and an article from each noted political figure is being offered for bid. Although the theme is political, this does not eliminate the vast variety of available items and services. You may fancy a particular painting, have a need for dog grooming certificates or even want to bid on a hand-painted "One Of A Kind" tee shirt.

As you know, bidding works up an appetite and a thirst, so food and a no-host bar are included in the admission charge. In addition, there will be a raffle which gives you a chance to win exciting and useful prizes.

Details as to the location and other pertinent information about the auction will be provided by a special mailing, so keep an eye on your mail box. While you are doing this, think if you or someone you know has an item or service to donate for the auction. If you happen to find something you want to donate, but are uncertain, just give Pat Berly a call at 761-1906. She'll be delighted to answer questions and make arrangements for pick up and delivery of donations.

Sophia Potoka



To The Forum:

While I agree an element of discretion seems logical to prevent offending members and future members of SCWU, it seems we have become oversensitive in this area.

The "LATUSHA" article (Vol. IV, No. 2) is an example. It was a refreshing change from the sobriety of the majority of articles in this newsletter. I am disappointed that so many readers (at least it was implied that the majority of readers) cannot share in and enjoy a funny article. "LATUSHA" was obviously satirical.

Being both Polish and Jewish, I believe that humor is essential to survival.

Sandy

The IN Club

Those mute
wooden figures
that mouth
their badges
and retreat
into their
grey shapes —
smug
in their Sunday dress —
Unpenetrable granite
with one eye
unsmiling
scrutinizing.
Circle it —
It's so conventional.
Say the magic word
and it talks talks —
unhearing.
Show me your credentials
it says,
you must have Credentials.
How do you function
without them?
I offer a scrap of paper
with my name —
the door slams shut.
I smile
knowing —
that I knew.

Alicia Brandenburg

Dear Forum:

I always enjoy reading this paper. Being heavily in the business world, I read many publications to keep informed. The male dominance of mass media is overwhelming. This paper gives, therefore, much-needed relief. So, I was emotionally and aesthetically assaulted in seeing a man's face in the largest ad (½ the page) your paper took in this last issue. Did you need the money that badly? Can't women ever get it together financially without men?

And please I know you can give very logical rationalizations for having such ads.

But you can't explain away a lesbian's extreme need not to constantly be invaded by men—and why she thought she could get this

need fulfilled from the SCWU organization and paper and didn't.

I expect you to skillfully verbalize your rationalizations. I hope you don't. I just hope you're sensitive enough to feel what I'm feeling and acknowledge it—because it is a very basic reason why I, and most lesbians, are lesbians. We want our own space—we don't want to be inundated by men.

We hope you exercise better judgment in your future papers. If you must get ads from men due to revenue need (and that's intimidating to women's power) please leave out blatant things like pictures that work against this being a strong woman oriented publication.

Disgusted,
Barbara (and friends)

Editor's Note: Barbara, we love you! Many women have strong opinions but not that many take the time to share them with us for print — thanks.

In response, however, we must make three points—all of which are positions rather than rationalizations. (1) SCWU is not a separatist organization. It is a lesbian organization with room for women of all political persuasions, including separatist. Many of our women are interested in building coalitions with gay co-sexual and men's groups. As an organization we are concerned to get our educational messages across to men as well as women.

(2) Our ads are screened to make sure they are not derogatory or exploitative. Our criteria for accepting ads do not exclude gay male or non-gay male or female advertisers.

(3) We respect Tony Mella, the man in the ad, as one of our leading gay activists. He is on the Board of MECLA, one of our strongest co-sexual gay political organizations, which was featured in a previous issue of this Newsletter (Vol. IV, No. 3). His insurance agency is handling SCWU's group health insurance program.

We indeed appreciate and respect your

feelings, but not all of us share them. Speaking personally, I am not a lesbian because I'm against men; I'm a lesbian because I love a woman.



Newsletter

Published bi-monthly in February, April, June, August, October and December. Editor: June Mazer; Feature Editor: Bunny MacCulloch; Managing Editor: Margo Strik; Graphics: Carol Porter; Staff: LDA, Dee Brueske, Julie Fretzin, Sophia Potoka, Sheila Rosecrans, Nikki W. and Ret. Advertising: Margie Mullen; Circulation: Maribeth Kelly; Advisory Committee: Pat Denslow, A. Rocky, Judy S.

Members of SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WOMEN FOR UNDERSTANDING are mailed the Newsletter without cost. Non-members' annual subscription rate is \$5.00.

Views and opinions expressed in by-lined columns, letters and articles are NOT necessarily those of SCWU.

Mail articles, press releases, and Forum letters to June Mazer at 3271 N. Raymond Ave., Altadena, CA 91001. To join the staff, call June or Bunny at (213) 791-4561.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: OCTOBER 25

Advertising rates available upon request. Call SCWU office (213) 784-9160 or 784-5584. Mail advertising copy (camera-ready) and checks to: SCWU Advertising, Box 348, Balboa Island, CA 92662. Advertising deadline: November 1.

Advertisements indicate a wish to serve the lesbian community and should not be construed as an indication of sexual preference of advertisers.

Editorials Editorials Editorials Editorials Edi

We've paid our dues. Why should we contribute more money to keep the organization financially afloat? If "they" can't manage "their" money better than that, why should we worry? What do "they" do with the money anyway?

Well, let's consider for a moment. Why has SCWU grown so fast? Why has the membership almost doubled this past year? Why were we forced to give up trying to get everything done with volunteers, to hire a full-time secretary and rent an office and install two phones? What is this demand that pushes us?

There is no "we" and "they" in SCWU.

We—all of us—want this organization to exist. We want the non-gay world to know that there are hundreds—thousands—of us. We want to get the word out to isolated lesbians everywhere that there are successful, achieving, contributing, loving women loving women. We want the opportunity to meet other women like ourselves. We want to pool our energy and resources to enrich the life of our community. We want all lesbians to be free to live openly and proudly and we know SCWU is bringing that day closer for more and more of us.

The need is so great that just communi-

cating with members and would-be-members now costs several thousand dollars a month! And this is only a beginning—a base on which our educational, research and community support programs can be built. Social functions are a vehicle for our more important work—they give us the emotional connection and energy we need to achieve our long-range goals—and they always cost extra because they must pay for themselves and help finance other programs.

What we get for our money in SCWU is not material things.

Military purges still exist—but now, for the first time, with SCWU's help, there is a lesbian lawyer to defend the accused. Young lesbians are still often confused, scared, self-hating—but now we are here for them as visible role models. Make your own list—how many ways our world is better because our organization exists!

What we get for our money is the opportunity to help this organization grow and reach its ambitious goals—which will make life for all of us richer, freer, safer and more fulfilling.

June Mazer

SCWU To Honor Elsa Gidlow

This year our Lesbian Rights Award will be presented to Elsa Gidlow, lesbian poet, who will celebrate her 82nd birthday in December!

Several educational events celebrating lesbian poetry and focusing on the issues of aging in the lesbian community will be planned for both gay and non-gay audiences in conjunction with and culminating in the Lesbian Rights Award Dinner which will be held Saturday, February 14, 1981, at the Biltmore Hotel.

Elsa was one of those featured in the award-winning documentary film *Word Is Out: Stories of Some of Our Lives* and the book of the same name by Nancy and Casey Adair (New Glide Publications/Dell Publishing Co., 1978).

She was born in Hull, Yorkshire, England, on December 29, 1898. Her family moved to Canada when she was 6 and she was raised in a poor French-Canadian village. From the age of 16, when the family moved to Montreal, she had to earn her own living. At the age of 21 she went to New York to seek a career as a writer. Currently she lives in the San Francisco area in

a "quiet, bird-singing garden refuge arduously won from the years of economic pressure, as well as the wild terrain, and named Druid Heights."

"I feel that I have lived half a dozen different lives," Elsa Gidlow wrote last year, "none of them conforming to the usually acceptable patterns and with so many negatives that confronted me when I filled out forms, I used to wonder if I really existed. For example: grammar school (none); high school (none); college (none); degrees (none); post graduate record (none); honors and awards (none); marriages (none); children (none); religious affiliation (none). I do have a birth certificate." ("Footprints in the Sands of the Sacred," *Frontiers*, Vol. IV, No. 3, 1979.)

Two of her many books which may be of particular interest to our readers are *Sapphic Songs: Seventeen to Seventy and Ask No Man Pardon: The Philosophical Significance of Being Lesbian*, available from feminist book stores or Druid Heights Books (685 Camino Del Canyon, Muir Woods, Mill Valley, CA 94941).

TEMPORARY FINANCIAL CRISIS — UPDATE —

As you all know by now, SCWU has grown so rapidly that we are temporarily in financial trouble. Effort in the next few months must continue to be focussed on raising money to meet our operating costs.

We are only half-way to our goal of \$10,000 needed to meet our expenses in this critical period.

The direct mail solicitation has so far raised \$3,000. The pool party netted \$800. Proceeds from the Robble's event were \$1500.

We acknowledge, with deep appreciation, donations of from \$5 to \$500 from the following:

Abblitt & Bennett	Susan P.
Lorna M. Ahn	Flo Pickett
Lin Brockington	Joan Potter
Lois E. Doepping	Joan Roach
Katharine Fuller	Irene Robertson
Susan Gross	A. Rocky
Sheryl Healey, Ph.D.	Marie L. Rodgers
Kay Hullett	Trish Sorensen
Nancy Kennedy	So. Com. Member
Dorothy Kingston	Jan Stone
Dee Komar	Sharon Tobin
Bev Kozlov	Elizabeth Turner
Bunny MacCulloch	Martha Young
Jane Mazer	Judy & Pam
Peggy McCloud	Ret & Dianne
Margie Mullen	Sandi & Jan
Jean O'Leary	

30 more who asked not to be listed.

If you have not yet contributed, please do so today! SCWU is your organization and needs your help.

Make out your check now, to SCWU, and send it with the form below to the SCWU office. Any size contribution helps. Send what you can.

Enclosed is my gift in the amount of \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (home) _____ (business) _____

Southern California Women for Understanding is deeply appreciative of your continuing support. We would like to acknowledge your donation in the next issue of the SCWU Newsletter. If you wish to be listed, please complete the following:

☐ You may include my name in published list of contributors. Appropriate donor recognition should read _____

MEMBER RAP GROUPS

Are the Special Interest Programs getting too big for you? Then come to one of our member-only raps. Attendance is limited and we'll call you for the next meeting.

Name _____

Phone (H) _____ (W) _____

Check topics which interest you:

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| ☐ Photography | ☐ Backgammon |
| ☐ Gourmet Cooking | ☐ Pet Care |
| ☐ Home Repair | ☐ Bridge |
| ☐ Gardening | ☐ Chess |
| ☐ List Others _____ | |

Nights available to attend (check all available):
MON. ☐ TUES. ☐ WED. ☐ THURS. ☐ FRI. ☐
Mail to: Membership Committee, SCWU

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SATISFIED CUSTOMERS, VETS, PET
SHOPS & PEOPLE IN OUR TRADE
WHO HAVE REFERRED US TO
THEIR FRIENDS.

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ONE PER CUSTOMER. PLEASE



INVITES YOU TO JOIN US!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Hm. Ph. () _____ Wk. Ph. () _____

Occupation _____

(optional)

Members will receive the bi-monthly
SCWU NEWSLETTER without cost.

Check appropriate box(es):

☐ Yes, I would like to join. My check for \$35 is enclosed.

☐ (Limited Income — \$25)

☐ I would like to contribute. My check for \$_____ is enclosed.

☐ Send me 6 issues of the Newsletter. My check for \$5.00 is enclosed.

Please do ☐ do not ☐ put me on mailing list.

Please do ☐ do not ☐ contact me by phone.

Make check payable to SCWU and mail to:

Southern California Women for Understanding
13719 Ventura Blvd., Suite D, Sherman Oaks, CA 91423

OUR MAILING LIST IS COMPLETELY CONFIDENTIAL
AND NOT LENT TO ANY OTHER ORGANIZATION.

Also for the protection of our members and guests, no
cameras, tape recorders or other recording equipment
are allowed at any of our social or fundraising events.

International Lesbian Conference To Be Held

An International Lesbian Information Secretariat (I.L.I.S.) was established as part of the International Gay Association at its second annual conference held April 4-7, 1980, in Spain. Plans are underway to hold an International Lesbian Conference this winter or early spring — before the third annual IGA conference, which will be held in Italy during Easter 1981.

Efforts to change the name of the IGA to include the word "lesbian" failed. The women's caucus chose to stay with the term "gay" as a sign of solidarity. The official name of the Association is now: "IGA—International Association for Gay Women and Men."

Aims of the Association, as published in the official "Foundation Document," are: "(1) To work for the liberation of gay women and men from legal, social, cultural and economic discrimination; (2) To provide information for the application of concerted political pressure on governments and international bodies in the pursuit of gay rights; (3) To maximize the effectiveness of gay organizations by coordinating political actions on an international level; (4) To promote the unity of gay people throughout the world by the collection and distribution of information on gay oppression and liberation."

The 1982 annual conference of the IGA will be held in the United States.

COMMITTEES

If you like to be creative and innovative, if you like to work on long-term projects, if you like to meet new people, and if you would like to have a hand in shaping the financial future of SCWU, then perhaps you would like to be involved with

THE FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Chair: Margie Mullen

The fundraising committee recently reformed after a one-year hiatus and we are just starting to roll. A critical initial need is for more women to really brainstorm viable ideas on how to raise funds without taxing our own members.

For instance, recently we organized a booth at a street fair in Los Angeles and sold Pepsis. Our net profit was almost totally derived from non-member women, gay men and non-gays. There was no financial burden on the SCWU membership.

Many of you participated in the dinner-dance and raffle at Robbie's on September 13. The fundraising committee hopes to put on similar events every six months, but with a special emphasis on attracting non-members to attend and contribute.

We are fortunate to have on the committee a woman who is a professional fundraiser for non-profit organizations. Her emphasis will be in obtaining grants and gifts from outside foundations, corporations and agencies.

Other ideas? We need your input. We also need your energy. The street fair and the night at Robbie's were put together rather quickly by only four people. In the future, we intend to plan our events months down the road and we need a large, dedicated committee to help make each one a financial success. If you are interested in joining us, please call the SCWU office and leave a message for Margie.

Golf Tournament Winners

Lowest Score: Sherry McC.

Highest Score: Myra Riddell

Least Putts: Ceal G. (We still have your trophy — please contact Bev, 362-6048.)

Most Putts: Joyce Gonzales

Longest Drive on #8: Amy A.

Shortest Drive on #8: Cindy W.

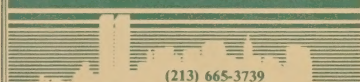
Closest to Pin on #8: Margie Mullen

Most Balls Out of Fairway: Betty N.

And everyone, including the gallery, deserved a special award for withstanding that heat on July 26th!

THE NEW YORK COMPANY

bar and grill



(213) 665-3739

2470 Fletcher Drive, Los Angeles, California 90019

WEST HOLLYWOOD PRESBYTERIAN

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To The Board . . .

Those re-elected to the Board of Directors are Judi Doyle ('83), Myra Riddell ('81), Jan Stone ('82) and Sharon Tobin ('83). Myra and Jan chose to fill the two unexpired terms. New members are Shari Carroll ('83), Maribeth Kelly ('83) and Betty Ripp ('83).

Those continuing on the Board are Pat Berly ('81), Dee Brueske ('82), Dianne Crocker ('81), Susan Gross ('82), Bev Kozlow ('82), June Mazer ('82), Margie Mullen ('81) and Margo Strik ('81).

Diane M. and Ret continue as liaisons to the Board from Ventura County and San Gabriel, respectively. As Ventura has already achieved Committee status and San Gabriel is in the process, they will become voting members of the Board. Karen Miller is the new voting liaison from the Southern Committee. Liaisons are elected or appointed by their area Steering Committees for one-year terms. The new LA/Valley Committee (see article, page 6) will also have a voting liaison.

By The Board . . .

At its August meeting the Board elected new officers for the year: Myra Riddell—Chair; Sharon Tobin—Vice Chair; Susan Gross—Treasurer; and Maribeth Kelly—Corresponding Secretary. Since Sharon McDonald, our staff secretary, now handles all minutes, the position of Recording Secretary was eliminated and a four-member Executive Committee decided upon. Other members of the Board may attend monthly Executive Committee meetings where the agenda for the monthly Board meeting is organized.

☆☆☆☆☆

The Ventura formation group applied and unanimously received approval for Area Committee status in July! They have formed their Steering Committee (see area reports on page 7) and its members met with the Board of Directors for a potluck lunch early in September to get acquainted and exchange ideas. Congratulations to us all!

☆☆☆☆☆

Our printer, Johnnie Phelps of Graphic Expression, has very often been helpful to SCWU beyond the call of duty. Most recently, she printed many extra copies of the newsletter at no extra cost, since she was aware of our financial difficulties. The Board recognizes her continuing efforts in our behalf and voted to send her a letter of thanks.

☆☆☆☆☆

As Bunny MacCulloch's Board term expired in August, a new liaison to the office secretary was needed and Susan Gross accepted this position.

☆☆☆☆☆

Maribeth Kelly submitted guidelines to the Board for requesting help from the Volunteer Task Force. These guidelines clarify that the primary responsibility for arranging and organizing a task rests with the Committee Chair who requires that task. The purpose of the Task Force is to lend appropriate womanpower to committee projects, but not to assume responsibility for their success.

☆☆☆☆☆

Because of the increasing number of phone calls to the SCWU office, the second phone line (which had been reserved for outgoing calls) will now be publicized so that it will be easier to get through. This second number is (213) 784-5584.

☆☆☆☆☆

The Membership Committee is now experimenting with an additional service for new members. There will be small monthly get-togethers on an informal basis for members who joined the preceding month, providing an opportunity for these members to meet each other, some members of the Board, and other active members.

☆☆☆☆☆

The Board had a very lively discussion about the nudity at our recent pool party fundraiser. It isn't surprising that nudity is an emotional issue; most of us learn early that it's "wrong" to expose our bodies and even worse to feel good about them. The feedback from members ranged from very negative to very positive. After much discussion, the Board's

consensus was that we would remain firmly on the side of nudity wherever it seemed appropriate (such as at a pool party) and by whom-ever felt comfortable in choosing that option. The Board recognizes — and regrets — that some members and prospective members will be offended by this stance. Nevertheless, we believe it is important to provide a safe and comfortable place for women to feel good about their bodies without the sexist objectification felt in the "outside" world.

☆☆☆☆☆

Maria Diaz, the Management Consultant who has been helping SCWU with methods and plans for the reorganization process, attended the August Board meeting in order to become better acquainted with its operation and its members. With her was Yvonne King, her colleague from San Diego, who will co-facilitate the Board Training Session on September 14 and the weekend workshop on November 15-16. The weekend session will involve all members of the Steering Committees from all areas, plus all members of the Board. Both of these women are tops in their field and much in demand, commanding impressive fees for their consultations. We are very fortunate and very grateful that both have expressed a strong commitment to SCWU and its aims. They have agreed to facilitate these training sessions for a very minimal fee plus expenses.

☆☆☆☆☆

From time to time the question of a policy on refunds comes up; a refund for a newsletter subscription or a refund for inattendance at a function, for example. The Board decided that in the future, since we are a non-profit educational organization, we would, in general, not make refunds, as we have no accounting procedure for operating that way. Future flyers requesting reservations requiring prepayment will specify a cut-off date beyond which no refund will be made.

☆☆☆☆☆

The next quarterly Interaction Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, October 12, at 2:00 p.m. The meeting will be a potluck at Myra's. All Contracting Members are urged to attend.

☆☆☆☆☆

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For details and topics to be discussed, please call OPEN QUEST at (213) 650-1812.

PAGE ONE

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San Gabriel Valley

We have attained committee status! We started in January and now, nine short months later, we have 38 active members. Election of a steering committee is next on the agenda with the results to be published in the next newsletter.

The social committee has been working hard on plans for a Halloween party to be held October 31, a fun artsy-craftsy Decoration Party on November 22 and a SGV Christmas Party on December 20.

The Special Interest Committee has some fine raps scheduled for us; plan to attend.

I know there are many women in the San Gabriel Valley not yet a part of SCWU. Bring your friends to the raps and the socials. They, too, need support and our organization is geared for that purpose. Working together we can effectively accomplish our goals of education and growth.

Call me if you have any questions.

Ret (213) 335-5791

SPECIAL INTEREST RAPS

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1980

7:30

Topic: Anger

Resource: Sandy Tate and Jill Crawford

Location: 2130 Canterbury Lane, Glendora
Directions: 210 Fwy. east to Lone Hill off, left to Foothill, right 2 blocks, right to first left to address — or — 210 Fwy. west to Allen off, left to Lone Hill, right to Foothill, right 2 blocks, right to first left to address.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1980

7:30

Topic: Religion: A Lesbian Perspective

Resource: Rev. Jeri Harvey

Location: 1435 E. Marbury, W. Covina

Directions: San Bernardino Fwy., take Azusa off, north to Rowland, left to Lark Ellen, left to Marbury, left to address — or — 210 Fwy., take Azusa off, south to Rowland, right to Lark Ellen, left to Marbury, left to address.

Los Angeles

LA/VALLEY CHAPTER NEARS REALITY

Fifty enthusiastic women met at Jan and Dee's on Friday, September 5, to take the initial steps in forming the LA/Valley Steering Committee. After Myra Riddell explained the general procedures of the formation process, 19 women volunteered to be a part of the initial committee.

With the other members present looking on, that committee conducted its first meeting. Maribeth Kelly was elected temporary Chair and Susan Kuhner temporary Vice Chair. Recognizing a need to know one another better, further elections of officers were postponed until a later meeting.

This was the beginning of a unique process in SCWU. The LA/Valley Steering Committee must begin to assume some of those responsibilities the Board of Directors has heretofore coordinated for LA/Valley. The Board now will be able to move toward its umbrella status for the entire organization. The willingness of the Board to make this transi-

tion smoothly and the excitement and enthusiasm and cooperative effort of the women present contributed to a successful first meeting.

Three Board members — Shari Carroll, Dianne Crocker and Maribeth Kelly—have also become active members of the LA/Valley Steering Committee. Bev Kozlow and Dee Brueske, Board members who currently chair the Social Committee and Special Interest Programs—two of the committees which will now become part of the LA/Valley Steering Committee's responsibilities—have offered to serve on the Steering Committee in an advisory capacity during the transition.

September 18 was set as the next Steering Committee meeting date and the Executive Committee of the Board agreed to attend to offer input and direction.

This is an exciting time in SCWU. Listed below are the names of those women who indicated a desire to try their wings at this level in the organization. There is a tremendous need, however, for more members who have talents, energies and ideas to give and share and to become involved in the various committees. Help us to get to know you. Help us by sharing your goals and desires for the organization. Help us by offering your energy!

LA/Valley Steering Committee: Debbie Andonaegeri, Karen Burns, Shari Carroll, Dianne Crocker, Mary Jo, Helga Dietzel, Sara Freeland, Dottie Frick, Kay Hullett, Jean Hunter, Maribeth Kelly, Susan Kuhner, Maureen M., Robyn Naramore, Louise Paxton, June Powell, Maureen S., Betsy York.

Maribeth Kelly

SPECIAL INTEREST PROGRAMS

These informal get-togethers featuring a special interest presentation are scheduled the **second Friday** of each month. Free to SCWU members; non-members pay \$5 and may attend twice before joining. You'll be asked to show your **membership card**, so please remember to bring it with you.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1980

7:45

Topic: Risking and Reentry (a Single's point of view)

Resource: Maribeth Kelly

Location: 15674 Olden Street, Sylmar

Directions: Golden State Fwy. north (can be reached by taking Hollywood or San Diego Fwys. north) to the Foothill Fwy. (210). Exit at Yarnell & turn right at STOP sign. Go one block to Foothill & turn left; 2 blocks to DeYarmo & turn right. DeYarmo will become Olden. (213) 362-6048

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1980

7:45

Topic: The One and The Other (Female Logic vs. Male Intuition)

Resource: Marilyn Murphy

Location: 19204 Cantara, Reseda

Directions: Ventura Fwy., Tampa exit. North on Tampa until 1 block before Roscoe, turn right on Cantara (213) 993-0615

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1980

7:45

Topic: To be announced.

Resource: Myra Riddell, MSW

Location: 19204 Cantara, Reseda

Directions: See November.

ORIENTATION RAPS

Would you like to learn more about SCWU? Orientation raps are small group meetings held for the purpose of informing new and prospective members about our activities and opportunities for involvement. If you are in-

terested in attending, please call either the SCWU office (213) 784-9160 or 784-5584, or one of the numbers listed below and make a reservation.

Tuesday, October 14, 1980, in Santa Monica
(213) 395-5631 (Pat or Becky)

Monday, November 3, San Fernando Valley
(213) 789-9407 (Dianne)

Friday, November 21, San Fernando Valley
(213) 995-0658 (Maureen)

Thursday, December 11, South Pasadena
(213) 799-5863 (Susan)

perience, a fun time at the Robbie's fundraiser and "Goddess" knows what else. REMEMBER, WE'RE HAVING A WINE AND CHEESE PARTY ON OCTOBER 25. CALL TERRIE FOR INFORMATION. And looking ahead, our Holiday Party is scheduled for December 20. (No Special Interest Program on December 19, therefore.) More information next issue.

A plea! Keep that energy plugged in. Your efforts are well acknowledged and hopefully, you will receive the support you want. We welcome the new Board in Los Angeles.

Love ya, Judi

CONTACT PERSONS:

General Info: Barbara or Lynette (714) 778-0904
Membership: Virginia or Carol (714) 830-8244
Education: Karen (213) 438-4768 (home) or (714) 536-0051 (work)
Social: Terrie (213) 597-3286
Special Interest Programs: Irene (714) 645-4151

Southern Committee

Hello — Well, I am pleased to report that the Southern Committee survived another year and another election. The women's names to follow braved the fates and have accepted a year's responsibility in various forms, but nonetheless are now the Steering Committee for our soon-to-be chapter.

Judi Doyle Chair
Barbara Billedeaux Vice Chair & Treasurer
Lynette Brown Recording Secretary
M.E.O. Corresponding Secretary
Karen Miller Chair of the Education Committee & Liaison
Virginia L. Chair of the Membership Committee
Carol P. Membership Committee
Elaine M. Education & Membership Coms.
Irene Robertson Chair of the Special Interest Programs
Georgia S. Special Interest Program and Mini-Raps
Terrie G. Chair of the Social Com.
Frankie O. Social Committee
Bobbie Byers Special Interest Programs
I.W. Legal Consultant

Congratulations to our Steering Committee. We all have a committed investment to this fine organization. It is and will be as strong and productive as its membership. We are in "changing times" as Peter, Paul and Mary once sang. We all need each other's support to guarantee our continued success. Please give some time, money or ideas to our future.

SPECIAL INTEREST PROGRAMS

OCTOBER 17, 1980 7:30
Topic: Alcoholism
Resource: Stephanie
Place: Fidelity Federal Savings, 13820 Seal Beach Blvd., Seal Beach
Directions: *San Diego Freeway (405) to Seal Beach Blvd., exit south to address.*

SAVE ALUMINUM CANS AND BRING THEM TO THE SPECIAL INTEREST PROGRAM.

NOVEMBER 21, 1980 7:30
Topic: Astrology
Resource: Zoe Ann Ananda
Place: Glendale Federal Savings, 100 Newport Center Drive, Newport Beach
Directions: *San Diego Freeway (405) to Jamboree Rd., exit south to Pacific Coast Hwy. Turn left to Newport Center Dr., left again on Newport Center Dr.*
SAVE ALUMINUM CANS AND BRING THEM TO THE SPECIAL INTEREST PROGRAM.

So we move right along and find ourselves having enjoyed another Cottontail ex-

Ventura County

As we head into our second year here in Ventura County, we are proud to announce the formation of our Steering Committee, whose members are as follows:

Keri Butcher Chair
Pat M. Vice Chair
Sheila R. Secretary
Lillian S. Treasurer
Virginia Larson Education Chair
Diane B. Membership Chair
Paula Emmons Social Chair
Diane M. Liaison to Board
Helen M. Member
Louise B. Member

It is the active support and hard work of these women that is helping to build a strong network of SCWU members in the Ventura area.

The trip to Catalina Island was an enjoyable experience. There were fifty beautiful women who boarded the boat for this trip and we had a gorgeous day.

Our Lesbian Mothers group is now meeting regularly. The next meeting is scheduled for September 14 at 6:30. Please call Lillian in Oxnard at (805) 486-0194 for the location of our meetings.

Our special interest meetings are as follows, with an orientation meeting following each program.

SPECIAL INTEREST PROGRAMS

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1980 7:30
Topic: Lesbian History from the Women's Movement to the Present.
Resource: Ivy Bottini
Location: 300 Wesley Ave., Ventura
Directions: *(from South)—101 Fwy. to Main St. exit. At the lights take a right on to Mills Rd. Right on Maple; left on Wesley. (from North)—101 Fwy. to Seaward exit. Left on Seaward to Main St. Right on Main to Mills Rd. Left to Maple; right on Maple; left on Wesley.*

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1980 7:30
Topic: Exercise & Health
Resource: Pat M.

Pat is a research physiologist at UCSB and an SCWU member. Her talk will include a discussion of exercise as it relates to physical and psychological health; and a focus on common myths about exercise and health with particular reference to women.

Location: 1492 Elnore Ave., Ventura
Directions: *101 Fwy. to Santa Paula Fwy. exit. Go to Kimball St. exit. Go to lights and take a left on Telephone Rd., right on Clay (opposite Scandia Liquors). Go to end and go left. Go to end. Elnore is on left.*

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1980 7:30

Topic: Friends, Lovers and the Holidays

Resource: Myra Riddell

Location: 2154 Olga St., Oxnard

Directions: *(from South)—101 Fwy. to Vineyard exit. Go toward Oxnard Blvd. Go left on Oxnard. Take next right on Gonzales. Right on Ventura Rd. (at main intersection), left on Bevra. Right on Olga. (from North)—101 Fwy. to Wagon Wheel Rd. exit. Go right to Ventura Rd. (at lights). Go left. Take right on Bevra. Right on Olga.*

Keri Butcher (805) 659-2639

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SCWU Help Wanted

NOTE: All the committees and task forces always welcome new people, new ideas new energy. The following committees function for the entire organization. Local committee activities and contacts will be found in the area reports on pages 6 and 7.

EDUCATION: Making plans for the Award Dinner, and there'll be a lot to do. Call Susan Gross (213) 552-5273 days.

FUNDRAISING: See article, page 4.

MEMBER RAPS: Help arrange and coordinate small member-only rap groups designed around a topic of interest to all participants. Leave a message for Pat Berly at the SCWU office, mornings.

NEWSLETTER: Interested in writing and publishing? The Newsletter staff is being reorganized. Lots of opportunities for involvement. Next issue Planning Meeting October 5. For more information call June Mazer (213) 791-4561.

OUTREACH TASK FORCE: Reach out to women who want to know about us but feel threatened by a large gathering; help make the connection for them. Call and leave a message for Margo at the SCWU office.

PUBLIC RELATIONS/PUBLICITY: If you have energy, expertise, skills, or interest in writing, advertising, promotion or public relations, the committee welcomes your help and ideas. Beginners welcome. Leave a message for Margo Strik at the SCWU office, mornings.

RESEARCH: Help distribute our questionnaire to the widest possible sampling of lesbians. If you are connected with another group or go to places where other lesbians might be going, please volunteer to take some questionnaires with you. Call the SCWU office, mornings, to arrange to have them sent to you.

SPEAKERS BUREAU: Interested in joining the dynamic pool of speakers who represent us to non-gays? Call Sharon McDonald at the office during the day, or Shari Carroll (213) 506-7870, evenings.

SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS: We now have a Volunteer Task Force coordinated by Maribeth Kelly. The tasks range from "stuffing and sealing" through "creative genius" and everything in-between. Please call the SCWU office mornings and ask for a Volunteer Task Force form.

NEW! CONTRACTING COMMITTEE: This committee is so new, it just has a tentative name so far. It will be a combination year-round nominating committee, participation accounting committee, and will plan the encouragement, training and rewarding of our active members. Pat Berly has agreed to be Chair. If you have had complaints or concerns or ideas, join this committee and straighten us up! Leave a message for Pat at the SCWU office, mornings.

What's Going On . . .

October 3, 4, 5—California Women's Congress at U.S.C. For info call Cathy Goldsmith, Global Community Network, (213) 650-0177.

October 9—GLCSC Roasts Gayle Wilson with Midge Costanza as M.C. Beverly Wilshire Hotel. \$150. Call (213) 980-6403.

October 25—MECLA Costume Ball Fundraiser, the Queen Mary, \$25. For info, call (213) 980-6403.

November 7, 8 p.m.—Rita Mae Brown reading from her works at the **Woman's Building**, 1727 N. Spring Street, L.A. \$4. For info, call 221-6161.

February 14, 1981—SCWU Lesbian Rights Award Dinner honoring **Elsa Gidlow**, 82-year-old lesbian poet. See article, page 3.

LATE FLASH

Our Chair, Myra Riddell, will appear in the next issue of *Who's Who of American Women*. Her biographical write-up identifies her as a lesbian activist.

CLASSIFIED

BEAT INFLATION! Grow your own food organically all year long. 12-month intensive, raised bed, organic, succession gardening *California Vegetable Growing*. \$4.65 includes book, tax, and postage. Write the two company, 19204 Cantara, Reseda, CA 91335.

SUE CAVINESS, Ph.D., MFCC, is no longer with Open Quest but is continuing her Wednesday Night Lesbian Discussion Groups. Call Sue at (213) 661-3936 for location and information.

WANT TO SHARE or look for apt. or house in L.A. or hills? I'm in 30's, employed, into music, photography, ethnic food, movies, Tai Chi, books & running riot. No cigarettes or cats (allergic). Must move, present place too small, leaks, recently burglarized. Can pay \$200, help furnish. Call Laurie (213) 977-7542 (work) or (213) 660-3267 (home).

OPEN LESBIAN-FEMINIST with one child wants to share a 3-bedroom, 2-bath condo in Signal Hill (Long Beach). Has panoramic view. Phone Nancy at work (213) 639-5560 to discuss.

FOR RENT—RESEDA. Small apartment in private home. Non-smoker. \$250. incl. utilities. Call Maryann nights (213) 996-0641.

WANTED: ROOMMATE TO SHARE lovely home in Studio City. 3 Bdrm., 2 Ba., Pool, No Pets. \$250. mo. incl. utilities. Call Sunne (213) 760-2699.

LOOKING FOR 2 bedroom apt., house or duplex in West Los Angeles area within 15 minutes driving time from beach. If you know of any vacancies in Oct. or Nov., call Margie Mullen (714) 675-6489. Might consider being kept.

SCWU MEMBER ON CATALINA BOAT TRIP— Ask your non-member friend Bea to call Joan in Ventura (805) 643-7054.

FOUND: SET OF KEYS — among them a Subaru key, left behind at Bunny & June's party on August 2. Call (213) 791-4561.



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SUPPORT GROUPS FOR LESBIAN MOTHERS

Lesbian mothers face every problem that is encountered by single parents *plus* a number of special ones that are unique to their situation. The lesbian mother has to ask herself, among other things, "Should I come out to my kids? If so, when and how? What do I do if my kids find out I'm a lesbian before I tell them? What if they receive harassment at school as a result of other kids finding out? What do I have to do to get or retain custody of my children?"

To cope with these and other questions, Dianne Crocker organized a support group for lesbian mothers in the Los Angeles area last February. The initial response was very enthusiastic. Twelve women from all parts of the city attended the first meeting. The group met every two weeks to keep the contact close. For some meetings speakers were scheduled, while others were rap sessions on topics suggested by facilitators. "Women had a chance to talk about the things they were wrestling with inside themselves," says Dianne. "It was good just to hear that someone else had gone through the same thing and dealt with it successfully."

As summer approached, however, attendance began to fall off. Despite efforts to handle transportation and child care problems, women who expressed interest when informed of a meeting date failed to show up when the time came. It was unclear whether this was the result of the unpredictability of summer schedules or a signal of the changing needs of women in the group.

As fall settles in, Dianne feels that now is a good time to take a fresh look at the group and what lesbian mothers can gain from it. She believes that many of the possible benefits of

such a group have not yet been explored. For examples, outings could be planned in which both mothers and children could participate, giving the children an opportunity to make new friends and interact in an atmosphere of support and acceptance. "We could have picnics together or go to Dodgers' games or to the beach," Dianne points out. "We can provide each other with referrals and contacts, such as good attorneys, as well as advising each other on how we've each dealt with problems personally. For meetings there are so many excellent speakers I can call upon. We have tremendous resources available for us to use."

Dianne suggests that perhaps the group should be more structured in the future, involving a definite commitment to participate for a six or eight-week period. She is eager to receive feedback from all women who have an interest in such a group in order to determine the direction that should be taken with it at this time. Lesbian mothers in the Los Angeles area are urged to fill out the enclosed flyer and/or contact Dianne Crocker at (213) 789-9407.

Meanwhile Ventura County and the Southern area have recently organized their own lesbian mothers' groups. Lillian S. reports that the Ventura group has been meeting every two weeks for the past three months, alternating speakers with rap sessions. "We're all glad to have a place where we can get together and talk," she relates. "Some of our kids have attended meetings, too, and gotten to know each other as people." Women in the Ventura area may contact Lillian at (805) 486-0194 for further information.

The Southern area's group is the youngest—having just been formed in July—but discussion at initial meetings has indicated a strong interest in a continuing group. Southern area women interested in participating may contact Virginia at (714) 830-6244 (evenings) or Mari at (714) 750-4974.

Julie Fretzin

INFIDEL

*Tonight I was unfaithful
First time since meeting you
From the moment her hands came down
I surrendered
It was irresistible, uncharted in our sharing
You have so many beautiful qualities my love,
But she had eighty-eight more
Our molding is special, but this was different
A union you and I can never share
I thought of you in my moment of ecstasy
At that instant when life is a mere speckle
When a crescendo erupts and slavery begins
But you were not near enough to see
For forty-five minutes I loved someone else
more
Will you forgive me?
Can you forgive the other woman
Who gave me Rachmaninoff as passionately,
as gently
As you give yourself*

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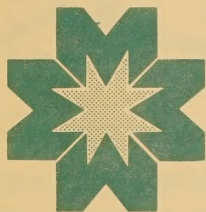
New Lesbian Publication

TRIUMPH magazine, a new publication for lesbians, has been in the works for almost two years. It will be a nationally distributed magazine and reflect the various life styles and interests of gay women everywhere. It will feature fiction, non-fiction, photography, poetry, advice columns, cartoons, and color! Advertising rates available upon request. There will also be a classified section. Subscription price is \$22 per year, \$2.50 single copy, 10 issues annually. Premier issue due this fall. Unsolicited manuscripts and material must be accompanied with return postage. Write: TRIUMPH Magazine, 210 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10010.

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TONY MELIA

Decade for Women

(continued from page 1)

At one point, a woman from Palestine began to talk and was quickly interrupted by a woman who actually was a member of the Israel Delegation to the United Nations official Conference. The woman from Israel attempted to prevent the Palestinian from talking, but those of us in the room, with clapping, stomping and shouts of "Palestina," prevented the Israelite from totally disrupting the Palestinian's account. Later during the session, a woman from Amnesty International announced that since there were so many Latin American women on the list, that the Israel Delegate would be given the slot of the Chilean woman.

Shouts and stomping prevented this violation of the pre-announced order.

Later, at a workshop dealing specifically with the issues of Palestinian and South African women, at the end of the session, a Jewish woman got up and requested to talk. She walked to the front of the room, embraced her Palestinian sister and said: "We also do not like what is happening in our country." This happened in Copenhagen. Instances of sisterhood over and beyond national boundaries were abundant.

What to me was the most significant, was the fact that 10,000 of us paid our way, from all over the world, to attend this Conference and that we all worked together in harmony, despite the fact that we were into such different

realities. When a sister from Mali got up to address the women in one of the Workshops, she first addressed us as sisters and captured our attention. Later she addressed us as wives and mothers and those of us that did not identify with the label protested and explained to her that this was not the role of all women present. We all learned about each other; we attained a deep respect for each other, knowing that all of us there were committed feminists, although some women from countries who suffer the consequences of imperialism reject the title FEMINIST, and are suspicious of the U.S. FEMINIST MOVEMENT which they see as a force that will divide the population of their countries, turning women against men, when they

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need to be united in order to effectively contain and expel the imperialist forces that in conjunction with their own militaristic forces, maintain their oppression.

At a time when women in the United States are beginning to assume positions of leadership within the management of the country, it is important that these exchanges take place, that these exposures multiply, so that U.S. women do not follow the path of their male predecessors. It is my firm belief that only travel will give women an understanding of the realities of women worldwide; that only travel will give us the insight to make the right decisions when we assume our role as partners, equally responsible with men for the policies that the U.S. adopts with relation to the rest of the world.

herstories

by RET

What an experience interviewing Judi Doyle for this issue's herstory! Talking with her is fascinating and we covered many more subjects than can possibly be included in a short article. To begin with, she is a member of SCWU's Board of Directors, Chair of the Southern Committee, involved with the Long Beach Women's Union, active in the community, a Marriage and Family Counselor by profession and "married" to Bobby Simon for the past year.

I asked her to tell me about her first lesbian experience. "In my second year of college, I met a woman I was REALLY attracted to. She picked up on it and would flirt with me. One day we just sat down and talked about it and I gave what I now know to be the stock statements: 'You're the first one,' 'This has never happened before,' 'Never again.' We never did anything; I think we kissed once. This was in 1962 and it was real hard to say anything about being gay." (As Lily Tomlin would say, "No one was gay before 1960.") Judi continued, "So nothing happened; we just acknowledged an attraction and went our own ways. After I got married, we saw each other at another time when she came on real strong and I said, 'Terrific timing. I'm married; get out of my life!' I still see her occasionally on a friendly level."

"My first actual experience was after I'd been married and divorced and had gone back to college. My degree is in theatre arts and the director of a show I was in was gay. It was common knowledge that she was a lesbian so I asked around about her. I found her very fascinating. As it turned out, she needed a place to live where she could keep her animals. Coincidentally, the guest house where I was living was available. I toyed with the idea of telling her or not, knowing that if she was in that close proximity what was happening in my heart would probably materialize. I did tell her and she did move in. Shortly after that was her birthday and I overheard her asking some friends in the cast if they wanted to come over for a drink. I said maybe I'd drop by. That was fine with her. So I did, and nobody else showed up. We both had just enough to drink and I became her birthday present. I had to confront my ego and admit I knew jack-shit about this; didn't know how to react, what to do. I decided I'd better be up front and let her know this was my first time. She deemed it her pleasure. That moment when we first touched was an incredible experience. All those firecrackers and rockets shooting off that I had fantasized about as a kid, but had never experienced, happened with her. With her, I knew she had touched my soul."

Brennan, Judi's son, was 3½ at the beginning of their relationship and Judi had told him she was a lesbian. "The child should not be kept from knowing. Miscommunication is not fair; it produces questions, frustration and conflict. I approached the subject with Brennan by telling him that Jane was someone I loved like I used to love his daddy and that we (Jane and I) were in a relationship like his daddy and I used to be. He accepted that. We were totally ourselves in the house, open and affectionate, and he knew that she slept with me. My reason for telling him was that he was part of me, part of the family, and he needed to have as much input as the rest of us. Just because he was young didn't mean he was stupid or couldn't deal with it. I feel people will



Photo by Margie Mullen

Bobby, Brennan, and Judi

deal with things as they can, but the information has to be there."

Did her marriage end because of her lesbianism? "No. Rick was not ready to handle the responsibility of a family. Our separating had nothing to do with my lesbianism."

Judi believes in many things: herself, communication, involvement, honesty, willingness to grow and openness. She also believes love is forever and feels strongly about her involvement with Bobby. She recognizes that permanence is not guaranteed, no matter how deep the feeling, and that love must be constantly nurtured.

I've only scratched the surface of this dynamic personality. A little insight into some of her philosophy may help you know her. On men — "I still feel close to men. I definitely see men as having their own idiosyncratic traits — being male and being raised in this society. I still find them very attractive but I prefer women. I don't put myself in the environment to be with men sexually. I like the equality of a relationship with a woman." On sexual identity — "I think we're all born bisexual in that the potential is there to be sexual with someone of either the same or the opposite sex. It's how we are cultivated, how our environment stimulates us that determines our sexual preference. And I think there is always a sexual preference. I don't think anyone is truly a bisexual; equally attracted to one or the other." On roles — "I think a lot of the derogatory feelings lesbians had for themselves came from the fact that they felt they were having to change their identity. The only role models we had were the heterosexual roles of male and female in a marriage. We thought: if I'm a woman and I love a woman, I must be a man inside. As women started to define themselves in a broader sense, men did too. That meant that homosexuals could also. We started having role models of women who felt they were women, not needing to be men and still loving women. Butch/fem roles have changed so that you don't have to identify with masculine or feminine. You identify with feelings, not gender." On SCWU — "I'm proud to be a part of an organization like SCWU that I feel has impact now and potential for even stronger, healthier, more productive impact. I think we have something to offer, not only to ourselves, but to society because we have had to live in oppressive ways and now are learning how to get out of the oppressed, victimized position."

Ed. Note: Autobiographies and biographies of SCWU members are welcome for our "herstories". In keeping with our policy of protecting anonymity, the subject can be identified or not, as you choose.

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Myra Riddell Keynotes NOW Conference: Calls for Activism

Von Kleinsmid Center at USC was the setting August 16-17, for the Fifth Annual Women and Alternative Lifestyles Conference, sponsored by the Lesbian Rights Task Force of the Los Angeles Chapter of NOW. The more-than-300 women in attendance were offered 80 diversified workshops, a lunchtime concert by the NOW Band and an evening with the Alice Stone Band.

The Keynote Address on Saturday was given by Myra Riddell, chair of SCWU. "It gave me goose bumps," was the reaction of many a listener. Her message is reprinted here (edited from tape) in order to share it with all Newsletter readers.

During the past eleven years, I've watched with a growing excitement what is happening in our movement. It's an excitement I hope I never lose, because each time I come to one of these conferences at a major university, each time I participate in a parade, I get a catch in my throat and the tears come to my eyes. I know that I am swelling with the pride that this is where we've come and this is where we are now.

Though we keep hearing that we've still got a long way to go, we recognize in coming to these conferences, the enormous amount of knowledge available to us. We've come to get that knowledge and we've come to find out about the areas of our lives that we need to know about, so that we can take charge of our lives, so that we can really feel on top of things. We come and we learn and we grow and we expand. We expand as people, but we come for another purpose too. We come because we all need to reach out and touch someone. It is really a basic human need not to feel alone, not to feel lonely, to have an opportunity to meet with other people, who listen to you, who understand, who care as you care and to take these marvelous feelings away with us, to take the sense of joy and the sense of comfort as we grow and we grow and we grow.

Along with what we take from what is available here, I really believe we have a responsibility to give back, to give back our energy, to become part of a movement that has taken us where we are now. A movement that has provided the growing medium for a Susan McGrievy, who months ago decided that ACLU needed an attorney on the staff who dealt exclusively with lesbian rights, so that when the travesty of the Navy's attack on the women of the Norton Sound occurred, Susan was there instantaneously to raise her voice on behalf of ACLU to say we will no longer per-

mit human beings to be violated in this way. She was there because we put her there. She came to her community and said, I need your help. I need to raise funds for my own position because the ACLU doesn't have it and we were there with her.

We are part of a movement that has brought the kind of artistry that we thrill to, the women's music, the women's poetry and the women's art. This is what our movement has provided. It is your movement and your energy is needed and you have a responsibility to participate in it.

There is another area that I feel is extremely essential to all of us. This comes from a place that I am in now, that I've been involved in for a while, that I really want to share with you. And that is: WHY we need to be activists. Why it is important to all of us to be activists, to be involved, to be doing. Every one of you has a story, many stories, such as where did I come from, what's happened to us, what's



Photo by Swannie Hoeft

Lesbian Activists Myra Riddell and Ivy Bottini at the Conference.

happened to us as we've been oppressed. We know our stories, we know that we've been through it. When we suffer this kind of oppression, when we are attacked, when we are condemned, when we are demeaned on our jobs, in our churches, in the courts, in our financial institutions, it does something to us. It does something to every one of us. It touches that part of ourselves that is us with a capital S.

That is the essence of us, that makes each one of us the unique individuals that we are, that raises doubts, raises feelings, that makes us question ourselves. It touches all of us, because we are still there.

We've come a long way, but the Navy can still do what they are doing to the women of the Norton Sound, women are still losing custody of their children, and women are terrified and living in closets because their jobs are threatened. Every single one of us is touched by that kind of oppression and what it does to the way we feel about ourselves, what it does to the inside of us is an eternity of hell.

In the 1960's a brilliant black psychiatrist from the island of Martinique, Franz Fanon, wrote in depth about the violence of the black movement. His thesis was that a people oppressed through violence could only reclaim their sense of self through violence.

I believe the same principle applies to us. As lesbians and gays, we have been oppressed through invisibility. As long as we remained hidden, terrified to be seen, we had no rights. We must now be visible. We must make ourselves known. We must reclaim ourselves and in reclaiming ourselves we stand up and oppose the oppressor. We are ready to stand up and say, I will no longer be treated this way. I will lend my energies to a movement that is burgeoning, that is giving me power and to whom I will give power also. I guess in the deepest psychological sense I think this is what we get for ourselves when we participate and what allows us to bring into our world the kind of sensitivity, the kind of humanism that we are all looking for.

The last time I talked about this issue of why we should all be activists, was to a group of Parents and Friends of Gays. One woman raised her hand afterwards and said, "Listen, why do you have to make so much noise about it? Can't you just live and be happy with yourselves and be quiet?" And my answer to that is, "No, I cannot, because I have a commitment to myself and I have a commitment to my world."

My name is Myra Riddell and I'm a psychotherapist. And I'm Diane Abbitt and Ivy Bottini and Johnnie Phelps and Olga Broumas and Bobbi Bennett and Jane Patterson. And I'm an attorney and I'm a physician and I own my own graphics business. And I'm a poet and I'm an entertainer and I sell real estate. And I'm a daughter and I'm a mother and I'm a grandmother and I love cats and dogs. And I'm a swimmer and I'm a runner and I'm a bridge player. And I'm a friend and I'm a lover and I'm a woman and I'm a lesbian. And I will not be denied!

Reported by Maribeth Kelly

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Celebrating Our Fourth Anniversary

My memory is that it was a beautiful, clear, sunny afternoon and the view of the city from the top of the hill was spectacular — but that memory may be entirely wrong because it was the view *inside* the living room that was really spectacular and riveted my attention.

I had never before been in a roomful of educated, successful, achieving, business, professional and artistic women all identified as lesbians! For almost everyone in the room it was a first. The atmosphere was electric—charged with excitement! Much laughter — some of it nervous, but all of it joyful. Maybe it was true that half the room was therapists and the other half their patients — it didn't matter. Something new, exciting and important was being born! It had all started in June of 1976 when a small group of women met, formed a Steering Committee with Myra Riddell as Chair, and launched Southern California Women. On the Sunday afternoon in August that I described, 50 women attended the first membership-appeal party at Dr. Jane Patterson's house in the Hollywood Hills. That September the first issue of our newsletter was distributed. On October 8, 21 women participated in our first monthly Special Interest Rap where Betty Berzon talked on "Disclosing Your Gayness To Family and Friends." On December 5th over 100 people attended our first fundraising auction held at the Towpath Inn (which then proceeded to bankruptcy before we could even recover our bar deposit). On February 25, 1977, we presented Jean O'Leary, then Co-Executive Director of the National Gay Task Force, in a special lecture at the Los Angeles Convention Center—the first public gay event in Los Angeles. Again over 100 people showed up. And the following night almost that number came to the members-only party to celebrate the event. In March, Myra Riddell, as our Chair, joined a select

group of leaders in the gay rights movement at an historic meeting at the White House. In April we held a fund-raising dinner to retroactively fund the trip. On August 21, 1977, we rushed into our "Second Annual" fund-raising auction (held at a private home—no bar deposit to lose). This

financed our very successful September workshop at USC, with Olga Broumas, award-winning lesbian poet as the keynote speaker.

In October the Lesbian Mothers Group met for the first time.

In November personal profile questionnaires were mailed to our members and a 49% return showed how curious we were to know more about our community. Meanwhile our social calendar began to develop, too. At first

it was left to the individual members to organize informally. In December of 1976 a group had formed a Travel and Gourmet Club which met monthly for such events as a Guatemala Night with slides, food, art objects and costumes. The membership party/reception for Jean O'Leary in February 1977 had been a natural outgrowth of the lecture/event, but the crowd that appeared indicated a need for more officially sponsored membership parties. So in April there was a Chili Party and Dance, in July a picnic in North Hollywood Park, and in December over 140 women attended our "first annual" Christmas Hanukkah Party. Why was it working? By all ordinary standards the organization should have collapsed long before. We were "Southern California Women for the Whitman-Radcliffe Foundation," an affiliate group to a supposedly national gay rights organization. But while we were developing, the national foundation was stagnating — none of their announced plans materialized. All monies had to be processed through them and we were lucky if they even answered our letters let alone return our 70% of any proceeds. It became increasingly obvious that the "National Board," based in San Francisco, was only interested in its local alcoholism program. In addition, in this first year and a half we weathered three major organizational crises. Each time, an important, active group of women quit in high dudgeon. In November, 1976, disagreement over a paragraph in the newsletter escalated into a call for impeachment of the Chair! It seems funny now but it wasn't then. Numerous meetings and massive attempts to soothe ruffled feathers notwithstanding, we still lost two of our founders. In January, 1977, the adoption of by-laws which gave voting power only to those who work (Contracting-Members-In-Good-Standing) alienated those who wanted a general membership structure. Then, in December, 1977, our first steering committee election caused such pain we almost gave up. "This always happens in women's organizations," people kept saying. "Women's organi-

(continued on page 6)



The FORUM space is reserved each issue as a Speak Out for our members and readers. We welcome expressions of personal opinion in the form of letters or articles — from one-liners to one typewritten page.

Dear Forum:

I can't figure out why the logo for the humor column is a hanger. A hanger is the symbol for abortion rights and I certainly cannot drop this association and begin to look for humor. Also I am offended that this column has to turn to ethnic jokes. It is embarrassing to open up a news letter representing aware and concerned women to find such a throw back.

Zoe

Editor's Note: We appreciate being made aware of the hanger as a symbol for abortion rights, and would not have chosen this for our humor logo had we been aware of this at that time. Our SCWU hanger, however, has by now taken on an important symbolism for us as lesbians. It symbolizes our closets — closets which (often because of involvement in SCWU) many of us have just begun to perceive, and, therefore, may begin to leave.

For more about the "ethnic" joke, please see below.

Dear Forum:

SCWU is dedicated to changing stereotypical images of lesbians. This we do through our social programs, research, newsletter and educational events.

When one attempts to change perceptions of stereotypes, the awareness of other "isms" and "ists" also begin to surface; i.e., feminism, ageism, racist, sexist.

As an active member of this organization, I am surprised and disappointed that Latusha went to press in our own newsletter. It struck a most discordant note.

I found the column to be racist, inappropriate and not congruent with the goals of SCWU and its vehicle of communication — the Newsletter.

Dee Brueske

Editor's Note: Although we have printed the only two letters we received, we did hear indirectly that the "Latusha" item in our last hanger space was widely unappreciated because it was interpreted as a Polish joke.

We are sorry to have offended anyone. SCWU — and its newsletter — is dedicated to changing stereotypical images of lesbians and all oppressed minorities. The editors did not see "Latusha" as a Polish joke.

The essence of an ethnic joke is the exaggeration of a stereotypical image of that ethnic group; in the case of a Polish joke the stereotype is usually "stupidity" (although "stupidity" is a characteristic which seems to surface in the humor of many ethnic groups as evidenced by the 'Chelm' stories in Jewish folklore and the "moron jokes" in America). The essence of ANY humor is the exaggeration of a commonly recognized human foible. We saw the "Latusha" item as "any humor" (the lonely lesbian who imposes a set of impossible qualifications, and

her respondent who agonizes about ways to achieve them). There is no image, stated or implied, that "P.L." is stupid. She is indeed Polish, because language was one of the impossible qualifications. Polish was chosen as opposed to, say, French, because it was a Polish woman who wrote the piece and this seemed to her a logical choice.

"Laughter is a weapon against bigotry. It too often lies rusty while reformers grow unnecessarily solemn and heavy-handed." So said Gordon Allport, one of the earliest researchers to study the roots of hostility and the nature of prejudice. As editors we are concerned about dogmatic attitudes in the feminist and gay rights movements which would limit our ability to laugh.

We welcome further comments from our readers.

June & Bunny

Dear Forum:

Thanks to SCWU and the Social Committee for a relaxing weekend at Cottontail. As a new SCWU member, I enjoyed the various activities very much, and particularly liked meeting many of the members. Friendliness is certainly inherent in many of the members, as I was asked several times to join a discussion when I was seen standing alone, and many interesting discussions ensued.

Only 2 problems surfaced which distracted from my total enjoyment of the weekend, I found. Although the woman who sang the gospel songs was excellent, I feel the selection of Christian music was an unfair imposition on various other religious groups attending. We, as women, a long-suffering and often invisible minority, as well as lesbians, must recognize and prevent the unfair ostracizing of other groups. Perhaps such a group of songs might be featured in a Sunday morning get-together for interested persons.

Another problem was the many remarks heard about how much better the previous Cottontail weekend had been. Comments were heard also about how young the majority of this Cottontail's participants were, and that, because of this, closeness had not been as apparent. We must remember that if SCWU is to grow and service the needs of the lesbian community, we must also grow and accept changes in organization composition. Also, reverse ageism is as defeating as ageism, if we are to make SCWU a valuable member of the community.

Otherwise, the weekend was a success and I can't wait to attend the next one in September.

Sheila

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Sharon McDonald At the New SCWU Office

Our fourth anniversary finds us with a burgeoning membership of about 500 women in four major southern California areas. The range and scope of our programs and activities, our projects and plans, is now so great that it's quite clear there's nothing we can't do if only there were a few extra days in the week!

Enter Sharon McDonald. Camera pans as she walks toward the entrance to 13719 Ventura Boulevard in Sherman Oaks 91423.

As she enters Suite D, the door opens to reveal a very neatly kept and well organized, if sparsely furnished, office. The window overlooks beautiful Ventura Boulevard.

It is 8:30 a.m. The phone rings, proving there IS life before noon. Sharon picks up the red phone, draws a deep breath during which camera zooms to reveal: (213) 784-9160, and says "Good morning, Southern California Women for Understanding." Her voice really does have that verve, that charm, that smile in it that Alexander Graham Bell originally had in mind. We freeze the action on this frame and overprint title: Phone Hours 8:30-12:30.

We resume action and show Sharon, in a series of fast-action quick cuts, going about her afternoon. She eats an orange, she goes to the printer, she opens the mail, she processes new memberships, checks flyers, affixes labels, goes to the Post Office, seals envelopes, types Board minutes, attends meetings, keeps track of who's scheduling what in which area and when, sends renewal notices, does address changes, makes up



Photo by Jo-Ed Griffith

Sharon McDonald

agendas, keeps track of the fundraiser, maintains our archives, serves as an information resource about all our activities, reminds people of decisions made or needing to be made, keeps up the files, talks to people, and makes a list of what needs to be done tomorrow.

Then, as the sun sinks slowly into the west, camera dollies as Sharon moves off in silhouette. Freeze action as she reaches center frame; music up as we print title; SCWU's First Full Time Salaried Employee. Final fadeout and hold on black screen for applause; we are damn lucky to have her!

B. McC.

SCWU Newsletter

Published bi-monthly in February, April, June, August, October and December. Editor: June Mazer; Feature Editor: Bunny MacCulloch; Managing Editor: Margo Strik; Graphics: Carol Porter; Staff: LDA, Dee Brueske, Sophia Potoka, Sheila Rosecrans and Ret. Advertising: Margie Mullen; Circulation: Maribeth Kelly.

Members of SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WOMEN FOR UNDERSTANDING are mailed the Newsletter without cost. Non-members annual subscription rate is \$5.00.

Views and opinions expressed in by-lined columns, letters and articles are NOT necessarily those of SCWU.

Mail articles, press releases, and Forum letters to June Mazer at 3271 N. Raymond Ave., Altadena, CA 91001. To join the staff, call June or Bunny at (213) 791-4561.

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herstories

by RET

Ed. Note: Autobiographies and biographies of SCWU members are welcome. In keeping with our policy of protecting anonymity, the subject can be identified or not, as you choose. Send copy, by July 1, to: Feature Editor, SCWU NEWS.

Former missionary, college housemother, social worker; currently therapist in private practice, vice-chair of SCWU, membership chair, feminist and political activist. Formerly shared an 18-year relationship, totally closeted, with another woman; currently open to family, friends and community. This issue's herstory features Sharon Tobin—direct, dynamic, and dedicated.

She talks candidly about her closeted relationship. "We met while we were in college. Neither of us had been in a gay relationship before; as a matter of fact, we were dating men. Our close friendship lasted through a separation of two years during which time I was a missionary on an Indian reservation. I came home on holidays and would see Joan. Then I returned to the college as housemother. Joan lived across the street and it was the beginning of a relationship. We discovered ourselves in a caring place with each other. Our relationship flourished; we got a house together for the summer and by the end of that time there was so much caring between us that there was no question we would stay together. We never really questioned it. We were together, comfortable with each other, and loved each other very much.

Until we came to where we knew and began to really question, there wasn't even a matter of hiding it. Even our best friends, to whom I have gone back and told, had no idea we were lesbians because we were so comfortable being roommates. We knew no one; had no gay friends. I was very involved with racial encounter movements and there it didn't matter what your sexuality was. Bombs had been exploded on our doorstep. There were things much more important than anyone's sexuality."



Sharon Tobin

Sharon speaks enthusiastically about coming out. "It was only about three years ago that I revealed to anyone that I was a lesbian. I'm not ashamed of being a lesbian; I'm ashamed of having hidden it for so long. I'm ashamed that I allowed the world to do that to me because it's not how I lead the rest of my life. I'm not going to hide anymore. When I do catch myself hiding, I deal with it. I've justified hiding because I thought I could accomplish some things, but I think it was covering my own fears and I'm not willing to do that anymore."

There is a growth experience involved in coming out of the closet. "My life during the 18-year relationship was very narrow. I had no knowledge of the whole world out there. The fact that there are women out there I could get to know, care about, and experience is a constant expansion for me as diversified as anything I could possibly experience. I could never go back to that narrow kind of life. Except for Joan, my sharing was non-existent. I

have found pride in being able to share myself and my own being with people. This has been a very meaningful thing for me. To be able to share fairly openly is new for me and something I hope other women can find."

She has definite feelings about speaking up when it's necessary. "Up until recently I've always been able to keep lesbianism and human rights as separate issues. What's happened is that over the last two years as I've become involved with SCWU, I can't separate them as much as being an issue; now it's me. I'm not angry when gay jokes are made because it's an unfair social thing to do. I'm angry because it's me they are attacking as well."

Sharon believes in the strength of the gay community. "We are oppressed so often either as women or as lesbians and accept it and don't use the community or reach out to the community and let anyone know. You don't have to deal with most things totally alone. There really is a strong lesbian-gay network that can be pulled on for a lot of things. We have a very large community out there and if they don't know the answer, they know someone to put you in touch with. We allow ourselves to be oppressed by not utilizing this network."

As an active member of the total community, Sharon sees herself as "a woman who is a lesbian who is spiritual, sexual, social... all those things." And much, much more.

ORIENTATION MEETINGS

New in SCWU? Want to know what's happening? The Membership Committee holds orientation meetings for new and prospective members.

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Whats Going On Whats Going On Whats Going On Whats Going On

June 15 — SCWU Annual Membership Meeting.

June 19-22 the *Third National Lesbian and Gay Health Conference*, San Francisco State University, 1600 Holloway Ave., San Francisco. Marcie Jenner, SCWU member, will be presenting on the Orange County Lesbian and Gay Needs Assessment Study. For information on registration write N.L.G.H.C., P.O. Box 6189, San Francisco, CA 94101; or call Ann Polivka (415) 282-3913.

June 21-22 Christopher Street West Gay *Pride Festival and Parade*. Festival, with arts and crafts, entertainment and disco dancing, is being held at the Pacific Design Center on San Vicente at Melrose in West Hollywood. The parade, along Santa Monica Blvd., is scheduled for 3 p.m. Sunday. Assembly time for all marchers is 2 p.m. along Hayworth and Laurel Streets.

June 27-28 and July 11-12 *Weekend Course on the Lesbian and Gay Alcoholic*, University of California, Irvine. An accredited course dealing with the psychological and sociological dynamics of being both gay and alcoholic. Instructors: Dr. Peter Nardi and David Buntley (members of G.A.U.). Fee \$65. For information call UCI Extension School (714) 833-5414.

June 29 *San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Parade*.

August 16-17 *Women & Alternative Lifestyles Conference*, sponsored by the Lesbian Rights Task Force of LA NOW at USC. Watch for registration mailing.

Every Saturday night through August, *LOVE, INC. presents "Inflation Fighter Dancers"* for the lesbian and gay community. 3801 S. Western, LA; \$2 admission. For information call (213) 419-0119 or 677-5683.

September 26-28 *Third SCWU Weekend at Cotentail Ranch* in Malibu Canyon. For information call Bev at (213) 362-6048.

TUNE OUT CBS

On Saturday, April 26 at 10 p.m., CBS aired nationally a show called "Gay Power/Gay Politics." The universal response of concerned lesbians, gays, and non-gay supporters has been that CBS deliberately presented a derogatory, inflammatory, and irresponsible show.

An emergency meeting was attended by 75 people representing 37 organizations (including SCWU) to draft a list of accusations, responses, and demands which have been presented to top personnel at CBS. The **NOT CBS** (National Operation Tune Out CBS) Committee was formed.

Thousands attended demonstrations May 5th and 7th at the Century Plaza Hotel in Los Angeles, a site chosen because CBS was having a three-day conference there with all its affiliate stations. (Joyce Gonzalez, SCWU Board Member, was one of the demonstration organizers.) A Hospitality Room at the Hotel was set up so that these affiliates and members of the press would have an opportunity to speak with people from the lesbian and gay communities about our concerns.

A very clear, concise, well-written flyer was distributed which explains the issues in a carefully reasoned manner, expresses the many vital questions raised by such blatantly biased presentation, and states these demands: that CBS remove the program from distribution and publicly apologize; that CBS finance and provide equal prime time for a film produced by the lesbian and gay community that "honestly portrays the reasons our community needs and is seeking political power." If these demands are not met, **NOT CBS** urges that all of our community, and all our friends and supporters mobilize to tune out CBS during the entire Sweeps Week of the fall rating season. It is primarily during this period that ratings are established which determine advertising costs—the better the ratings, the

greater the advertising revenue for the network. CBS began last fall in third place, but has just gained first place over ABC for the past seven-month period. One of the reasons for this gain was their use of mini-series and specials. The thrust of the **NOT CBS** campaign is: Don't watch! Tune them out and **KEEP** them tuned out until our demands are met.

Send letters of protest to: William Leonard, President, CBS News, 51 W. 52nd St., New York, NY 10009. Send copies of your letter to Robert Daly, KNXT, 7800 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles, and the Federal Communications Commission, 1919 M St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20554.

GALAS Seeks Funds

The Great American Lesbian Art Show (GALAS) is still about \$2,000 short of essential funds. Please send contributions to help repay their loan to GALAS, Box 38777, Hollywood 90038.

Lesbian and Gay Delegates Elected

Twenty-two gay people from California, including seven lesbians, won delegate positions at the Democratic Caucuses on May 4. Eighteen won in Kennedy caucuses; 4 in Carter's.

The Los Angeles effort, which succeeded in electing 8 of their 11 candidates, was spearheaded by the "Destination New York Coalition" of lesbian and gay organizations coordinated by Stonewall Democratic Club.

In 1976 only 2 self-identified gay men and 1 lesbian were delegates at the Democratic Convention. This year, 14 of the 22 Californians placed high enough in the vote to be assured of going to New York in August. In addition, 2 gay men and 1 lesbian from Florida have also been elected.

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OUR FOURTH ANNIVERSARY

(continued from page 1)

zations just don't work—they're always fraught with power struggles and personality problems." We were "fraught" all right, but the doom-sayers didn't bargain for the need. Closeted, successful, achieving lesbian women wanted an organization to call their own!

So we started to think about breaking away from the Whitman-Radclyffe group and incorporating as an independent organization, while we continued our monthly raps, frequent socials, special groups such as Lesbian Mothers and Consciousness-Raising, and we geared up to join the fight against the Briggs initiative. In July we announced that we were disassociating from the WRF. Three hundred women attended the fabulous Luau produced by SCW's social committee on July 29. On August 10, 1978, we incorporated as Southern California Women for Understanding. The Steering Committee graduated to a Board of Directors, with all attendant legal respon-

sibilities and liabilities. In August and September we held three "Receptions for Understanding" at the Century Plaza Hotel to enlist the help of non-gay spokespersons to defeat Proposition 6.

With the win on 6, SCWU really took off! At our November 30 interaction meeting we decided to work toward a building of our own. On December 3, 40 women met in Long Beach and by January 6, 1979, the Southern Committee was officially formed. Increasingly, ideas only talked about before began to be realized. The Research Committee was activated on December 5. The Mini-Raps, now called Orientation Raps, started in January. The "Third Annual" Auction was finally held in February and raised more money than ever before. In March our monthly Special Interest Raps were redubbed Programs, and plans were developed for the new Member-Rap Groups which are now scheduled around special topics. On June 3 the Ventura County Group met for the first time. On June 22 we co-sponsored Casino Night on the Queen Mary with the Whitman-Brooks organization. In June, also, the SCWU logo, now familiar to all and even available on T-shirts, was first presented in the 3rd anniversary issue of the newsletter. Elections for the

Board went off in August without incident. The first Lesbian Rights Award Dinner at the Biltmore Hotel on September 15 and the first Cottontail Weekend on November 9-11, high points of 1979, epitomized the quality of the organization and the scope of its services to the lesbian community.

Educational programs and social activities had been multiplying throughout 1979 as the Southern Committee and Ventura County Group developed their own calendars; and then, in January, 1980, the San Gabriel Valley Group formed as well.

On March 31 we opened our own office with full-time staff person. In April our membership topped 500!

Happy Birthday, SCWU! As Myra Riddell wrote in her first "Notes from the Chair" in September, 1976:

"The members of the Steering Committee believed that there was need for an organization to provide the opportunity for gay women to meet with each other, work for gay rights and enjoy sharing mutual interests.

"It's very nice to be right.

"For too long, gay women have been invisible to each other. I believe our isolation has been due, in part, to the lack of viable

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means of meeting each other.

"As achieving women, as valuable, contributing members of society, we have a statement to make, to ourselves and to the community. An individual statement may be lost in the wind but a group with a voice speaks loud enough to reach many ears."

June Mazer

The annual membership meeting of SCWU will be held on Sunday, June 15, from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m., at the downtown Metropolitan Community Church, 1050 South Hill Street (11th and Hill) in Los Angeles. All members are urged to attend.

Our new office is still in need of the following items: Large folding work table, folding chairs, a calculator, rolodexes. If you'd be willing to contribute any of these items, please contact Sharon McDonald at (213) 784-9160.

Good News

The International Lesbian and Gay Association has completed the 2nd phase of its application for consultative status with the United Nations. A determination will be made known in February 1981.

BOOK REVIEW

The Decade of Women — A Ms. History of the Seventies in Words and Pictures

Ed. Suzanne Levine & Harriet Lyons
Paragon Books \$8.95

I was very excited to hear about this book coming out. What could be more fun than thousands of photographs and quotations about the last ten years? I don't know where you were ten years ago, but I was certainly in an altogether different mindset.

Gloria Steinem did the introduction, and the political action of each year is outlined in the front of the book. Twenty-seven categories or chapters follow with pictures of anyone you can imagine from Bella to Phyllis, Fonda to Tharp. From all appearances, this is the perfect book to pick up again and again finding inspiration day after day.

The book arrived and after a little while I got the feeling something was wrong. One basic way to decipher a problem is to turn it around — The Decade of Men — now that sounds a bit strange. Would a man write such a book? As if all of man's activity could be put into 256 pages! Suddenly I felt trivialized which is one way to make women not venture out of their prescribed positions.

Where am I in this book — where are my sisters? There we are, the twentieth chapter, coming after the one on violence and rape. While family, relationships, marriage are in the first section. Sports—14 pages; Religion—4 pages; Families—6 pages; Lesbianism—2 pages. Once again the position is made clear as to how we fit into the scheme of things. Even though lesbians have been the ones taking the greatest risks, making the largest strides and leading the movement.

You may enjoy this book, actually. It's fun to look at the pictures and read the quotations. It is gratifying to see the strides made in sports, the arts, reproductive freedom and women in politics. Maybe I'm just asking too much, for the rightful recognition of lesbians as the pioneering feminists.

Zoe Ann Ananda

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COMMITTEES

MEMBERSHIP: JOIN US!

If you're new in SCWU, or even if you are not, it was probably not too long ago when you said to yourself, "There just aren't any other lesbians like me in all of southern California." And to your great surprise, you discovered a whole group of us! There are now more than 500 of us, and our ranks are growing. That's the function of the SCWU Membership Committee: to bring together those lesbians who seek to associate, socialize and work together with a peer group of women — lesbians who are stimulated by the educational and social programs offered by SCWU.

This "bringing together" doesn't happen automatically. It takes dedication, hard work, commitment and sensitivity to make it a reality. The Membership Committee operates under and expounds SCWU's philosophy: that membership is self-selective. Nowhere on the membership application form will you find any screening in the form of such questions as, "Are you truly a lesbian?" or "What do you do for a living?" As a prospective member you are not screened; there's no sorority-style rushing. The thrust of Membership's function is to say, "Seek us out and see if you belong. If you do, join us!"

Chaired by Sharon Tobin, the Membership Committee centers its activities around the main theme of bringing together women who share common lifestyles and goals. To help achieve this aim, Membership has three active sub-committees: Orientation Programs, Outreach Taskforce and Member Raps.

ORIENTATION. Headed by Shari Carroll, this group conducts regular small group meetings to introduce new and prospective members to SCWU. In a non-threatening atmosphere, this group holds meetings for those who want to find out what SCWU is all about, what its membership is like and how

they can become involved in the organization. While primarily held for new or prospective members, these meetings are also open to existing members. So, if you're not feeling part of the organization, it is your chance to re-connect with SCWU. Orientation also stands ready to give a presentation about SCWU to any group or organization of about 12 women. Any SCWU member is free to bring a guest to Orientation meetings as well. Since meetings are limited to about 12, reservations are required. Orientation can use your help. If you're interested in attending or working on this sub-committee by making phone calls, setting up meetings or being trained to conduct these groups, leave a message for Shari at the SCWU office.

OUTREACH. A relatively new sub-committee, headed by Margo Strik, the Outreach Taskforce was established to help women who are isolated from the community, afraid, shy or closeted to connect with the lesbian community and SCWU. This dedicated group performs its outreach function by calling those women who have written or called the SCWU office, indicating they might be interested in the organization. Outreach involves making these women feel comfortable about SCWU by talking with them by phone, possibly meeting over a cup of coffee or bringing them to an Orientation meeting or Special Interest Program. As the taskforce is growing, its activities are taking a stronger approach to reach out to women who seek this kind of support. Outreach needs your help. If you know of someone who, for whatever reason, is not making her own connection with SCWU, or if you'd like to serve on the taskforce, leave a message for Margo at the SCWU office.

MEMBER RAPS. The newest Membership sub-committee, headed by Pat Berly, was established to supplement the monthly Special Interest Programs. Designed for members-only, the raps offer women a chance to meet in small (15 to 20) groups to discuss subjects of common interest. Already formed are the Psychic group and the Political Effectiveness group. Raps are open to any topic, activity or interest, and groups are formed as soon as 15 to 20 members sign up for a specific topic. This is

your chance to connect with members who share your interests. The procedure is simple: fill out the coupon found elsewhere in this Newsletter or leave a message for Pat at the SCWU office. As a new group, Member Raps can use your help. Contact Pat if you're interested in helping organize raps, making phone calls to set up meetings and coordinating rap leaders and locations.

The SCWU Membership Committee is much more than a committee in charge of renewal notices. It is your vehicle for becoming involved in the organization—at the level comfortable for you. Its functions include the responsibility of maintaining the confidentiality of the membership list and channeling members into SCWU committees. If you're at a loss as to what you can do in the organization, Membership will advise you how to become involved or how to become a contracting member—one who has a voice in the organization's policy-making process. (For more information on how to become a contracting member, leave a message for Dee Brueske at the SCWU office.)

Exactly two years ago, SCWU's membership was hovering around 160. By the end of 1978 it had reached 300. And since then, the membership rolls have seen a steady increase. This growth has been accomplished because of a conviction that there are women looking, and in some cases desperately seeking, to connect with other lesbians with common interests and goals.

Just last month, SCWU broke the 500-member mark. On that occasion, Sharon Tobin remarked, "Our strength is not in numbers. It lies in our identification with the organization. We are individuals who have formed a group — a unit which is far stronger than the strength of its individuals."

That's what Membership is all about. As an SCWU member, no matter what level your activity, consider it your committee: to ask questions, to connect with the organization, to offer suggestions or to become more involved. Your connection is as near as your phone: call the SCWU office between 8:30 a.m. and 12:30 a.m. The number is (213) 784-9160. Join us!

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At Cottontail

The outdoors beckoned once again and over 120 women responded. The occasion was the April weekend at Cottontail Ranch. Although not as many workshops were scheduled for this weekend as had been scheduled for the outing last November, there were still enough events taking place to keep you involved most of the time.

I spent some of my leisure time interviewing women to get a feeling of what was happening with them. The overall feelings were of warmth, enthusiasm, and involvement. One woman said she was not "expecting this amount of people or this quality of people. There's something for everybody and everybody feels they belong." This feeling of belonging was everywhere. Of the countless women I talked to, the message was the same: "Nobody needs to feel left out of things. Even if you're new, you don't have to worry."

The weather was beautiful and the women were beautiful. It meant something special to every one of us who attended, but one woman expressed it exactly as I felt it: "Camping and being with women: the perfect combination."

Ret

Notes From The Chair



Photo by Diana Woolley

Myra Riddell, Chair

Spring seems to be my time for personal comments. I guess as a native Californian I bubble inside when the sun shines. This time I'm musing over the words we use so, so often now, the "in" words — a "sense of community" — "building a support group" — "networking." What does it really mean to me? What has SCWU brought into my life? I realize

ed that I thought in terms of knowing women to meet my needs, whether for services, information, companionship, comfort or fun. A very valid concept, but last summer I found a new dimension to "community" and "support." The incident was the birth of Copper's puppies (Copper being my sensuous Dachshund — the one I'm so silly in the head about). I knew I would be hysterical and useless, so I had seven women who wanted to be there to help. There was another woman in San Bernardino who raises dogs; she stayed home all day to be available by phone. These women received a call at 8:30 a.m. on a Sunday morning—Copper was in labor. They came and stayed until 7 p.m. until the last puppy was born and all was well. Some helped deliver the puppies who were in trouble and some soothed me.

Later, as we were all exhausted, I tried to express my gratitude and what I heard in return was "Don't you know how much we all got from being able to participate? You allowed us all to have a litter of puppies."

So that's what it's all about — we care about each other — we feel safe enough to ask for what we need and we give back the joy of sharing.

Myra Riddell

SCWU Help Wanted

NOTE: All the committees and task forces always welcome new people, new ideas, new energy. Here's who to call.

FUNDRAISING: We need more people on this committee and the committee needs a chair. Please leave your name with Sharon McDonald at the office (213) 784-9160.

NEWSLETTER: People to help with distribution—lucky us, Maribeth Kelly has agreed to be in charge of this but she will need help. And new writers always welcome. Call June Mazer (213) 791-4561.

RESEARCH: Needs people to help with distribution of our questionnaire. If you are connected with another group or go regularly wherever there may be groups of lesbians, please volunteer to take some questionnaires with you. Call Judy (213) 993-0615.

PUBLIC RELATIONS/PUBLICITY: We need people and we need a chair for this committee. Please leave your name with Sharon McDonald at the office.

EDUCATION: Making plans for the Award Dinner, and there'll be a lot to do. Call Susan Gross (213) 552-5273 days.

SOCIAL: Help plan and enjoy all our great social events. Call Bev (213) 362-6048 evenings.

SPECIAL INTEREST PROGRAMS: Would you make your home available? Would you speak to our group? Would you help out with cleanup? Call Bev (213) 362-6048.

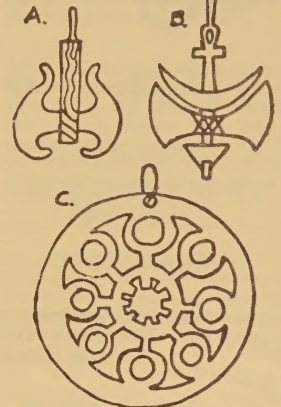
SPEAKERS BUREAU: Interested in joining the dynamic pool of speakers who represent us to non-gays? Call Sharon McDonald at the office during the day, or Shari Carroll (213) 506-7870 evenings.

SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS: Sharon Tobin, Sharon McDonald, and Maribeth Kelly are working to set up a group of volunteers for special projects. These may be anything from making phone calls to helping with mailings to running errands. If you haven't yet decided to become involved in a particular committee, but you still want to do something while you get better acquainted, please tell Sharon McDonald at the office that you'd like to register for special assignments.

MEMBERSHIP: See article, page 8.

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MECLA's Political Action

(Municipal Elections Committee of Los Angeles)

Founded in 1977, MECLA is a fast-growing co-sexual, overtly political organization with viability and impact.

MECLA's focus in the 70's was that of changing the attitudes of the Los Angeles City Council. That change (from one of hostility to one of accepting the participation of lesbians and gay men in the political process) has been achieved. But with such achievements comes the need to maintain such gains. MECLA continues to do this.

The 80's promise to be a more expansive time. To make it illegal in California to discriminate in housing, credit, employment, public accommodations and so on is an ongoing and worthwhile goal. Yet for MECLA, this is only the first of many more steps to be climbed.

MECLA's thrust is:

1. The visible participation of lesbians and gay men in elective and appointive public positions.

2. Examining the rights of lesbians and gay men on an international basis.

3. Looking at the discrimination of lesbians and gay men on a nationwide basis and the passage of Federal legislation to make such discrimination illegal.

Also for the 80's (and on home turf) is the examination of the political structure of Los Angeles and California for the purpose of making necessary changes within the structure.

In order to maintain achievements and accomplish objectives, MECLA has four highly active and specific committees.

The Fundraising Committee creates the big special events. It raises the money that allows MECLA to be influential.

Deciding where best to spend the dollars and interviewing political candidates is the work of the Political Action Committee.

External Affairs is currently working on a documentary about MECLA. Among other activities, it is responsible for MECLA's newsletter.

The Advisory Council is active in supporting the other committees.

MECLA's impact is on the political system. This organization continues to create and maintain, develop and expand access to the individuals and offices of the political system.

To Chairpersons Beverly Thomas and Richard Kaplan, along with the full complement of MECLA's Board of Directors and energetic workers—hearty congratulations. MECLA has accomplished and targeted some impressive and needed objectives.

For a copy of their newsletter and more information: MECLA, Suite 625, 9200 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90069, (213) 769-8944.

Dee Brueske

CLASSIFIED

BEAT INFLATION! Grow your own food organically all year long. 12-month intensive, raised bed, organic, succession gardening *California Vegetable Growing*. \$4.65 includes book, tax, and postage. Write the two company, 19204 Cantara, Reseda, Ca. 91335.

HOUSEMATE WANTED for lovely home in Studio City: den, 2 BR 2 BA, pool. \$250 month includes utilities. Sunne Mahood (213) 760-2699 anytime.

FOR SALE — 5 bar stools, solid teak custom-made modern. Cost \$185 ea. Make offer. Two chairs cantilever chrome & fabric. Cost \$395 ea. Make offer. Call Myra 766-6811.

OPENING—Lesbian Therapy Group. Meets Tuesday evenings 7:30-9:30, W. Los Angeles. \$60 monthly. Call Fae Pannor 391-6321.

ROOMMATE WANTED to share 2 BR Apt. in Studio City. \$160 plus util. Mature, stable woman. References requested. Call Maidee (213) 395-2492 days, or 762-5497 after 6 p.m.

WANTED—Motorcycle touring companion(s). Ride your own motorcycle or ride in my sidecar. While touring sidecar riders need only worry about personal expenses, such as food and souvenirs. If one wants security, two of my dogs are experienced sidecarists and they will travel with us. For information call Doris P. Telles (213) 571-1953.

June-September Tentative Schedule:

June 1: Poker Run, CA; June 27: Colorado; June 30-July 14: Canada via San Francisco and coast; July 29: Wisconsin; Aug. 2-3: Bakersfield, CA; Aug. 9: Indiana; Aug. 23-24: Santa Maria, CA; Aug. 29-30: Zaca Lake, CA.

Year-round trips to Running Springs are made to a private mountain home. No expenses involved in accommodations in Running Springs regardless of length of stay.

OPEN QUEST

OPEN QUEST offers discussion groups for Lesbians. Sue Caviness, Ph.D. will facilitate the women's groups for June and July. All programs begin at 8 p.m., followed by refreshments and time to socialize. The fee is \$4, but no one is turned away for lack of funds. ADDRESS: 1131 N. LaCienega Blvd. CALL: (213) 650-1812 for details.

JUNE CALENDAR

Wednesday Evenings

4th: ONE FOOT OUT OF THE CLOSET — Lesbian Double Identity

11th: BIRDS OF A FEATHER — Lesbian Ghettos

18th: ORGASM, YES: ELECTROCUTION, NO — Good Vibrations?

25th: GENERATION GAP? Ageism in the Lesbian Community

JULY CALENDAR

Wednesday Evenings

2nd: VIRGIN BIRTHS? — Motherhood and Lesbianism

9th: BEYOND "THE GROUP" — Lesbian Bars and Social Clubs

16th: LESBIANS OF MANY COLORS — Avoiding Racism, Not Just Sexism

23rd: FATHER, OR MOTHER, CHURCH? Lesbians and Religion

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By the Board . . .

- *** Resignations from the Board were submitted in March by June Moore, Judy Faust, and Sylvia Clark. In April, Joyce Gonzalez submitted her resignation to become effective in June. These resignations were accepted with deep regret and many thanks for the energies these women have expended on behalf of SCWU. We hope they will all continue to be active and involved in our organization.
- *** Replacements for two of the vacant Board positions were chosen by the Board at the April meeting; these two are Margo Strik (Outreach Task Force, Newsletter, Directory) and Margie Mullen (Newsletter, Fundraising, Outreach), who will fill out the terms which expire in August 1981. The other two

vacancies will be filled by the regular August election (see NOTICES below.)

- *** SCWU mailings to our total membership will be coordinated so that we'll have one mailing a month (around the first); this will save considerable labor and postage. Mailings intended only for one geographic area will still be sent out on an as-needed basis.
- *** Special thanks to Bev Kozlow and the Social Committee for the great success of Cottontail weekend was unanimously voted.
- *** The Ad Hoc Budget Committee was extended indefinitely; proposed budgets previously submitted by the various committees and groups were approved in principal; fundraising activities will be required.

- *** The Southern Committee was voted \$150 toward its participation/contribution to a Long Beach area float being built for the Gay Pride Parade in Los Angeles on June 22nd. (See "What's Going On", page 5.) Members of the Southern Committee will form a contingent to march in the parade, carrying an SCWU banner made at Cottontail; we're all invited to join them.

- *** Questions have been raised about possible SCWU liability in the event of an accident at any possibly hazardous event we may sponsor. It has been suggested that we *not* sponsor any such events unless and until we obtain insurance for them. There will be further discussion on this matter.

NOTICES

Attend the annual membership meeting on June 15th!

The date of the SCWU Arts & Crafts Festival has been changed to June 29th so as not to conflict with the Gay Pride Parade on June 22. To reserve display space or a boxed lunch contact Bev (213) 362-6048 or (213) 997-0101, X257.

The Garage Sale — for which you've been cleaning out your closets and garages, yes? — will be held on Sunday, July 13th. *Bring all your stuff to the Arts & Crafts Festival on June 29th for storage.* We need a good location—a yard on a main street—anywhere. To volunteer your yard or for further information, call Linda (213) 787-9218, evenings.

The lesbian mothers group is meeting regularly now and welcomes your participation. Please contact Dianne Crocker (213) 789-9407 for the date and location of the next meeting.

NEW FUNDRAISER! A dynamite idea for SCWU

to assist our educational programs and start us on our building fund. We started with 8 people who each agreed to invite 7 people to get together; each of the 7 agree to get 6 together, and so on. Each person who attends contributes \$2 to the fund — no inflation here! Yet it will add up to more than \$100,000! The get-togethers can be anything: party, dinner, movie, bowling, or even a yard-work party. You can plug in anywhere along the line—and your help is needed NOW. For details please call Sharon McDonald at the SCWU office any weekday 8:30 to 12:30 (213) 784-9160.

All Contracting Members in Good Standing are eligible to run for election to the SCWU Board of Directors. July 1 is the deadline for submitting a resume and a brief Statement of Purpose (who you are, why you want to serve, what your objectives are) to the Nominating Committee. Elections will be held August 15. Now's your chance!

To be sure you receive your mailings, notify the office promptly of any change of address; third class mail is NOT FORWARDED.

Be sure to get your SCWU T-shirt in time for Gay Pride activities in June! T-shirts will be available at all Special Interest Programs and SCWU functions. They come in navy blue, red, and beige and are only \$6. For information, call Mara (213) 661-4607.

The LA NOW Lesbian Rights Task Force Annual Alternative Lifestyles Conference is being planned for August 16-17. SCWU members willing to do a workshop should contact Norma Hair, 3713 Orange, Long Beach 90803 with name and subject matter, or call (213) 427-4389 and leave a message.

Inter-Action Meeting

The quarterly inter-action meeting of the board and active members was held Sunday, May 4 at Myra Riddell's, following a potluck dinner. More than fifty women were present.

Issues discussed included membership in the International Gay Association, reporting procedures for contracting members, and group health insurance for SCWU members.

Tony Melia and Rick Roth, from Melia Insurance, presented details of possible health insurance plans. Reaction was very favorable so watch for a special mailing on this.

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SCWU Special Interest Programs

Informal get-togethers featuring a special interest presentation are scheduled the second Friday of each month. (Similar programs are scheduled on other Friday nights by the Southern Committee and the Ventura and San Gabriel groups.) Free to SCWU members. Non-members pay \$2 and may attend twice.

FRIDAY, JUNE 13, 1980 7:45 p.m.

Topic: Looking At Our Own Isms
Resource Persons: Marilyn Murphy and Irene Weiss

Location: 15674 Olden Street, Sylmar
Directions: Golden State Fwy. north (can be reached by taking Hollywood or San Diego Fwys. north) to the Foothill Fwy.

(210). Exit at Yarnell & turn right at STOP sign. Go one block to Foothill & turn left; 2 blocks to DeYarmo & turn right. DeYarmo will become Olden. 362-6048

FRIDAY, JULY 11, 1980 7:45 p.m.

Topic: Religion—A Lesbian Perspective
Resource Person: Rev. Jeri Harvey, Pastor, MCC

Location: 15674 Olden St., Sylmar
Directions: See June 13.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 8, 1980 7:45 p.m.

Topic: A Perspective on our Movement — Then, Now, and Tomorrow
Resource Person: Ivy Bottini
Location: To Be Announced

Southern Committee

Hell-o from sunny Southern California. The weather is warming, our numbers are growing. Just want to share with you how very wonderful it feels to be in existence and expanding after a year and a half of growth in the Long Beach/Orange County area. We've enjoyed many events including picnics, parties, auctions, award dinners, Cottontail Ranch retreats, plus our monthly contacts through special interest programs.

We are a Family. Within that structure we all hold a responsibility to provide support. In addition to your yearly membership fee, there is ample opportunity to give your input. Your ideas, energy and comradery are valuable. The women who do share of themselves are greatly appreciated and duly recognized. They also need your help. We have grown in numbers much faster than we've recruited its support base.

Please, seriously consider your schedules and energy levels and see if you couldn't offer some of your own talents and

time to keep our fine efforts in SCWU moving along.

Thanks for what you will give.

Love you, Judi Doyle
(213) 438-5877

SPECIAL INTEREST PROGRAMS (3rd Friday, 7:30 p.m.)

JUNE 20 Barbara Vandale/Bicycle Tour USA

Place: Far West Savings (formerly known as State Mutual), 5116 E. 2nd St., Long Beach (between Nieto & Granada)

JULY 18 Open Forum — Judi Doyle

Place: Glendale Federal Savings, 100 Newport Center Drive, Costa Mesa (Off Pacific Coast Hwy one signal south of MacArthur)

CONTACT PERSONS:

Education: Karen Miller (213) 438-4768 or (714) 536-0051

Social: Terry G. (213) 597-3286

Special Interest: Irene Robertson (714) 645-4151

Membership: Lynnette Brown (714) 991-6677

San Gabriel Valley

The San Gabriel Valley Group has reached a point where committees are being formed. At our last meeting we accomplished electing the following committee heads: Margaret, Social; Nancy, Special Interest; Gwen, Outreach; and Rocky, Research.

The group voted to have one social per month. The July social is set to coincide with the rap on the fourth. We will have a swim party and a cookout (bring your own steak) here on Canterbury Lane. It promises to be a festive occasion. Watch for follow-up flyers; plan to join us.

FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 1980

Topic: Recycling Dollars
Resource: Susan Gross, Stockbroker
Location: 2130 Canterbury Lane, Glendora
Directions: 210 Fwy. east to Lone Hill off, left to Foothill, right two blocks, right to first, left to address — or — 210 Fwy. west to Allen off, left to Lone Hill, right to Foothill, right two blocks, right to first, left to address.

FRIDAY, JULY 4, 1980

Topic: To Be Announced

Resource: Dianne A

Location: 2130 Canterbury Lane, Glendora

Directions: See June 6.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 1, 1980

Topic: Consciousness Raising

Resource: A. Rocky

Location: 16200 Dalark, Valinda

Directions: S. B. Fwy. #10, Azusa exit. S. to Merced, R. to Valinda, L. to Fellowship, R. to Hartview, R. to Dalark, L. to address. (213) 918-5684.

Remember our raps are held the first Friday of each month at 8:00.

I know there are many lesbians in our San Gabriel Valley area who are not enjoying the benefits of SCWU. Come be a part of a group of beautiful women who learn, share, and grow. Call me if you need any information.

Ret (213) 335-5791

MEMBER RAP GROUPS

Are the Special Interest Programs getting too big for you? Then come to one of our member-only raps. Attendance is limited and we'll call you for the next meeting.

Name _____

Phone (H) _____ (W) _____

Check topics which interest you:

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| ☐ Photography | ☐ Backgammon |
| ☐ Gourmet Cooking | ☐ Pet Care |
| ☐ Home Repair | ☐ Bridge |
| ☐ Gardening | ☐ Chess |
| ☐ List Others _____ | |

Nights available to attend (check all available):
MON. ☐ TUES. ☐ WED. ☐ THURS. ☐ FRI. ☐
Mail to: Membership Committee, SCWU

Ventura County

Hello from Ventura. Our April meeting with Dr. Jane Patterson turned out to be a huge success. We had a record turnout for us of 33 women, and I'm sure each of us benefited a lot by being there.

The potluck/work meetings have been very successful and a great boost for our group as a whole.

The Catalina Island day trip is scheduled for August — watch for flyer.

Our first Lesbian Mother's Group meeting on May 18th generated much enthusiasm. We are looking for other mothers to share with us.

Save July 26th for a gala disco dance. BYOB. \$2 members; \$3 guests. 7:30 till ?? 5617 Larkin Street, Ventura. Directions: 101 Fwy. to Victoria Exit, east on Victoria to Telegraph, left on Telegraph 1 block, left on Wake Forest 4 blocks, right on Larkin.

Our Special Interest Programs, taking place on the third Friday of every month, are as follows:

FRIDAY, JUNE 20, 1980 at 7:30

(Orientation following program)

Topic: Job Related Stress and Burnout; Their Causes, Symptoms, and Coping Strategies

Resource Person: Ruth H.

Place: 1492 Elsinor Ave., Ventura

Directions: 101 Fwy to Vineyard. Go toward Satcoy. Left at 118. Left on Telephone Rd. Left on Clay (opposite 7-11 store). Go to end and go left. Go to end. Elsinor on left.

FRIDAY, JULY 18 at 7:30

(Orientation following program)

Topic: Lesbian Writers Speak Out (Bring your original writings to share.)

Resource Person: Diane M.

Place: 2154 Olga St., Oxnard

Directions: 101 Fwy to Vineyard. Go left to Oxnard Blvd. Go left, then next right on Gonzales. Right on Patricia (1 block past Ventura Rd.), right on Carmen; right on Olga.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 15 at 7:30

(Orientation following program)

Topic: Rejection

Moderator: Norma C.

Place: 201 W. Vineyard Ave., Apt. 2, Oxnard
Directions: 101 Fwy to Vineyard Exit. Left on Vineyard to Edelweiss (1 block past Oxnard Blvd.). Building is on right corner (1-8) on front.



SCWU Member 'Comes Out' On Front Page of L.A. Times

By Margo Strik

The stack of phone messages looked routine enough. Joyce Gonzalez, SCWU board member, walked into her Los Angeles radio station office and picked up the phone to return her calls. Little did she know that one of those calls would change her life.

The call was from a friend, attorney and gay activist Richard Kaplan, calling from State Senator David A. Roberti's Sacramento office. The date was Tuesday, January 15. California's gay community had just marched on Sacramento. The next day, SB-18, a bill to prohibit job discrimination against homosexuals, would meet its fate before the Senate Industrial Relations Committee.

The phone call: would Joyce consider testifying before the committee on behalf of SB-18? Joyce's immediate concerns: how to get off work the following day; which flight to take to Sacramento; and, somewhere nagging in the back of her mind, what was she going to tell the committee. "I just didn't consider any ramifications at that time," Joyce recalls. "I jumped at the chance to do something positive.

"It wasn't until after I had made the commitment that I became a little nervous. That's when it hit me: I was going to be saying in front of God and the straight world that I am a lesbian!"

Joyce Gonzalez' mission: to help influence Sen. Joseph B. Montoya to cast a tie-breaking vote in favor of the bill. Montoya's publicly-stated concern was that if SB-18 passed, his Spanish-American constituency would be forced to take a back seat to gays as a new, legitimate minority group in competition for jobs and for priority in employment discrimination cases. (His arguments had repeatedly ignored the fact that the Fair Employment Practices Committee had already allocated a budget to handle any backlogs and overloads of employment discrimination cases.)

In Joyce Gonzalez, the pro-SB-18 forces had selected an effective candidate for the job of persuading the Senator. "After all," concedes Joyce, "I am an American of Spanish descent; I am a woman; I hold a responsible management position; I'm articulate; I am gay; and I don't project the stereotypical image that most straights have of lesbians.

"I had never testified at a public hearing. All I knew was that I wanted to present my case and to present it well . . . to fight for my rights as a productive member of society. My

main concern was to help get this bill out of committee and onto the Senate floor. I was thinking of all the positive reasons for being there. It just never crossed my mind that my testimony could bring negative repercussions.

"That full impact hit me when I was talking with the lobbyist for the bill. As we were outlining my testimony and preparing for an effective presentation, my eye caught the press table, the tape recorders and the NBC television camera crew. That's when panic struck. I had already agreed to testify under my full name. No hiding under first-name-only or fictitious names for me! But then the fear: 'Oh, my, this might be picked up by my local newspaper or TV.' I still had an out: Sen. Roberti asked me if I had any objections to being filmed by the cameras. I could say yes! An on-the-spot decision. Then, to myself: 'No, I'm not going to hide any longer.' And to the Senator: 'Let's go for broke!'"

The next morning, with a front-page headline The Los Angeles Times proclaimed, "Bill to Bar Job Bias Against Gays Defeated." The article, which reported Montoya's vote against SB-18, devoted two paragraphs to the testimony of Joyce Gonzalez:

"A Los Angeles radio station sales promotion manager, Joyce Gonzalez, testified in favor of the bill. In a voice crackling with emotion, she said, 'I too am a lesbian and I have a right to work.

" 'I do my job and I have every right to be judged on my job performance. I am 41 and it is difficult to start over. I don't want to start over. I have lived with fear long enough.' "

Aware of the article as she arrived at work that morning, Joyce wondered if it had caught the interest of her co-workers. Would there be any ramifications? Could it be that the very issue on which she had taken a stand in Sacramento would come back to haunt her the next day at her job in Los Angeles?

While active in the gay community for the past three years, Joyce was 'out' to just a few people at work. She soon found out that this was no longer so. Several people had read the article. Her immediate supervisor called her in to discuss the matter. "I'm proud of you . . ." were the first words the supervisor spoke.

With some of the apprehensiveness lifted, Joyce decided to approach the station's general manager on the issue. Her concern was that he might not have seen the publicity



Joyce Gonzalez

Lesbians In The News

SCWU member Diane Abbitt was appointed by House Speaker Leo McCarthy to the California Coastal Commission.

☆☆☆☆☆

Long-time lesbian activist Jo Daly has been appointed by San Francisco Mayor Diane Feinstein to that city's Police Commission.

☆☆☆☆☆

Del Martin, author of *Battered Wives*, a study of violence in the home, has been appointed by Governor Jerry Brown to the newly-created Commission on Crime Control and Violence Protection.

Health Care or Trauma?

Have you ever been hospitalized and felt alienated because of your homosexuality? What was it like for you when your lover was hospitalized? Have you had problems getting the treatment you needed from doctors, therapists, emergency rooms, etc. . . ?

SCWU is producing a series of slide shows to train health care professionals to deal more sensitively with problems lesbians have interacting with the medical care system. A special sub-committee of the Education Committee has started work on the scripts and needs your (confidential) input.

Please send descriptions of your experiences to June Mazer, 3271 N. Raymond Ave., Altadena, CA. 91001 or call (213) 791-4561.

FORUM



The FORUM space is reserved each issue as a Speak Out for our members and readers. We welcome expressions of personal opinion in the form of letters or articles — from one-liners to one typewritten page.

Dear Forum:

Someone should tell Elizabeth ("An Insider on the Outside," Feb.-Mar. Newsletter) that the only way you have a good time *anyplace* is to make it for yourself. As I read her article I kept waiting to read she had reached out to other individuals and had been rejected. Hence, her reaction. But nowhere was this stated.

Expecting others to extend a hand takes on a cyclical effect. Each expects it of the other and it never occurs. I feel she would find that if she had made an overt motion to any one in the bar, she would have been warmly received. We are all afraid of rejection and thus reluctant to take the chance to speak to strangers. But to conclude that "Probably none of them are worth knowing anyway" because no one made a good time for her and her friend is to pass up the opportunity to meet many fine women. Would she like someone to have drawn that conclusion about her?

I suggest you give it another try, Elizabeth, and this time, carry with you your laughter and good time. Then share it. You'll find it makes a difference.

Ret

Dear Forum:

This month, I spotted the page 2 item, the diatribe against the established churches, by someone who seems entirely unaware of the great strides that women and gay people of both genders have been making in the established churches in recent years. (Ed. Note: see "Sunday Church? Not Me!" last issue.)

And I thought that perhaps you'll be asking some prominent women within the churches — not MCC, but the established, mainline churches which the woman criticizes — for a perspective from the other side. Someone like Carla Kaesbauer of San Diego or Madeline Ritchie of San Francisco, immediate past national secretary and treasurer, respectively, of Dignity; or Connie Cohrt of LA, regional director for Integrity; or the Rev. Ellen Barrett or the Rev. Susan Bergmans of Berkeley, or the Rev. Loey Powell of San Francisco, to cite several well-informed members of our community . . .

With thanks and respect,

Howard Erickson

Lutherans Concerned

A Christian Ministry for Gay Understanding

A HOME OF OUR OWN: the second time around

Last November 1978, we reported that an SCWU building was among the long-term goals of our organization. "SCWU already provides a framework, a support system, inspiration and motivation to its members. Having a building of our own will make these things more concrete, more accessible. It will give our family a home."

Our Special Interest Programs are bursting at the seams. Special Committees need work space, conference space, meeting space. Our parties and dances are jam-packed and jellytight. Our educational projects and, in fact, everything we do, requires SPACE — not least of which is storage for supplies and materials.

Think of it — OUR OWN BUILDING! A place to meet, a place to go, a place to call our own! Damn!

Well, November 1978 was a bit early to begin planning for such an ambitious goal, because we were still relatively small then — but *now* — watch our dust! We'll begin by allocating a percentage of any income from our events to a special building fund; we'll continue by having special fund-raising events just for the building; and we'll end by *having our building!*

AND MEANWHILE . . . we have a new office!

SCWU is hiring a full-time secretary. A secretary needs a place to work, a place to organize our business. And as we get bigger, we get better; more people hear about us and want information — so they call. It used to be that a couple of people could return all the calls at odd moments between appointments during the work day. But now there are just too many to handle like that. So the secretary needs a phone, and the callers will be able to speak to a real live person right then and there. The handwriting was on the wall — SCWU started looking for its own business office.

Shari Carroll did most of the hunting, and it took about three months to locate an office that was suitable, affordable, near the old one (which was really only Myra Riddell's office address and phone number), and available to us on an out-of-the-closet basis. She found one!

The address is 13719 Ventura Blvd., Suite D, Sherman Oaks 91423. The phone will take about three more weeks to install, and now all we need is everything else — desk, chair, light, file cabinet, wastebasket, couch (casting), bookcases or shelves, and so on. If you have information as to the whereabouts of any of these items, please contact Shari at (213) 990-0747.

NOTICES

Ta-DAA!!! The SCWU tee-shirts will be ready soon! There will be regular and french-cut styles, several colors to choose from, and several terrific designs. They are good quality combed cotton and will sell for \$6 each. The tee-shirts will be on sale at all SCWU events from now on . . . so, get READY!

The Arts and Crafts Festival is coming in June. Please contact Bev or Jean (213) 501-0393 if you are planning to display and/or sell your arts, crafts, photos.

Keep on saving articles for SCWU's spring garage sale.

Pyramid Power is coming soon — watch for it — get in on it.

The lesbian mothers group has formed now — see, we KNEW you were there! and Dianne says it's great. If you'd like to participate, please contact Dianne Crocker at (213) 789-9407 for the date and location of the next meeting.

The participation accountant — Dee Brueske — is gnashing her teeth and baring her fangs because she is not getting many participation accounting forms turned in by active members. We all know you active people are out there doing good things and we want to know about it! We want to know who you are and what you're doing — so please send in those forms.

Ever faced with the need for a typist, a sign painter, a dentist, a florist, or a house sitter . . . and wished you knew an SCWU member who could fill those needs? Well, here's your answer: The SCWU Directory of Members' Services and Products! Now in the planning stage, the directory will show what products or services other SCWU members offer. It's also your opportunity to share what you do or sell with more than 400 SCWU members. The directory can only be as complete and accurate as the information provided by our members. So, watch your mailbox for your directory listing application form. It will be mailed to you in April.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the SCWU Softball Team, please send your name, phone numbers and desired team position to: B. J. Donovan, Box 6613, Burbank, CA 91510. For additional information, call (213) 884-6253 days. All equipment except gloves will be provided by SCWU.

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A FRAGILE TIME

With the closing of Sojourner Bookstore, Feminist Horizons, and Women in Distribution, we must stop and take a look at the awesome consequences. Whether or not you read or enjoy women's books and women's products is not the central issue. Women authors will no longer find publishers if the public isn't buying their books. Harper & Row, the largest publisher of women's studies, is a financially-successful company who won't continue printing women's books unless they are in demand.

New theories, fresh ideas, inspiring novels will not be available to us if we don't care now. Can you imagine if Marge Piercy, Mary Daly or Germaine Greer had no way to be heard? Or how our lives would be without Phyllis Lyon or Del Martin? Paperback publishers go by the number of books sold each year. If a book goes out of print, it is simply because not enough were sold in a given year.

The central issue is the dissemination of information. And along with that, the women who are supported along the way: author, publisher, distributor, bookseller, clerk and reader.

Naturally economics plays a large role in this problem. Women are making 59¢ to each man-made dollar. But if each woman-made dollar were put back into the community, the scale would dramatically change. Women control the spending of dollars. Ask for a woman in the office you call; be it realty, plumbing, or TV repair.



Newsletter

Published bi-monthly in February, April, June, August, October and December. Editor: June Mazer; Feature Editor: Bunny MacCulloch; Managing Editor: Margo Strik; Graphics: Carol Porter; Staff: LDA, Dee Brueske, Sophia Potoka, Carol Urist and Ret. Advertising: Margie Mullen.

Members of SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WOMEN FOR UNDERSTANDING are mailed the Newsletter without cost. Non-members annual subscription rate is \$5.00.

Mail articles, press releases, and Forum letters to June Mazer at 3271 N. Raymond Ave., Altadena, CA 91001. To join the staff, call June or Bunny at (213) 791-4561.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: MAY 1

Advertising rates available upon request. Call Margo at (213) 258-6211. Mail advertising copy (camera-ready) and checks to: SCWU Advertising, Box 348, Balboa Island, CA 92662.

Advertisements indicate a wish to serve the lesbian community and should not be construed as an indication of sexual preference of advertisers.

Even if there isn't one available, a woman may be considered next time there is an opening. Get a copy of the *Women's Yellow Pages* and use it. There are women doing carpentry, career planning, auto repair and lots more.

This is a fragile time for the women's movement. A fragile time for lesbians. Much of what we took for granted is falling apart. Organizations are becoming fragmented. The only assurance we have of not going backwards is economic security.

Please buy women's books, support women's careers and let's keep each other going.

Zoe Ann Ananda

CIVIL RIGHTS AT STAKE AGAIN

Last year the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors and the San Jose City Council both passed ordinances outlawing housing and job discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. The laws were passed by a 4 to 1 majority in the Board of Supervisors, and a 6 to 1 majority in the City Council. But immediately, anti-gay forces led by religious fundamentalists gathered enough signatures to force a referendum on the gay issue in the June election.

Failure of the state Right-To-Work legislation in spite of the impressive March on Sacramento, has not helped the situation. (AB-1 never went to the floor of the Assembly after the Senate version, SB-18, was blocked in committee.)

The Santa Clara Valley Coalition for Human Rights, which has formed to oppose the referendum, needs financial support from all of us. This is not just a local issue. If this effort to repeal gay rights wins, the right-wing will undoubtedly mount similar campaigns in other communities throughout the state and across the country.

The Los Angeles women's community contributed most of the money for the successful No on 6 campaign in 1978. Similar energy is needed now! Contributions can be made locally through California NOW (mail checks, marked for Santa Clara Campaign, to Box 3827, Orange, CA 92665) or sent directly to the Santa Clara Coalition for Human Rights, Box 2066, San Jose, CA 95109.

The Dade County, Florida, defeat in 1977 mobilized us into a political community nationwide. The No on 6 victory showed how effectively we could organize as a political force. We knew, however, that it was only the beginning of the war with right-wing repression. Santa Clara County is the next battleground. We can't afford to lose this one.

June Mazer



PROBLEM-SOLVING

Featuring Latusha

Dear Latusha:

Please help. I am a young, well-built, attractive, and intelligent lesbian who is lonely. All I want to do is settle down in a nice Polish household and raise cats, dogs or even birds if necessary. (I'm liberal.) I do not understand why it is so difficult, with our large population, to meet another lesbian who is bilingual, ambidexterous, capable of being either a piner or a pinee and has her own medical plan. If necessary I'll forego the ambidexterous part. Please tell me what a lonely Polish lesbian is to do.

Polish Lesbian

Dear P.L.:

First I would recommend you consider relocation, say perhaps to Chicago, Toledo or Warsaw. If this isn't feasible, then I suggest you begin frequenting the emergency room of your local hospitals. This will increase the probability of meeting an ambidexterous woman. (Watch for broken arms.) She will probably have medical coverage. If she appears more than once with a fracture, you can be almost guaranteed that she is both a piner and a pinee. Offer her Tea and Sympathy, then while she is recuperating at your residence, you can teach her Polish.

Good Luck,
Latusha

P.S. Stop by your local book store and pick up a copy of "The Art of Pining" by S. M. Wassaluskaus. This explores varying degrees of pining, how to make a piner out of a pinee, etc. You'll find it a worthwhile investment I'm sure.

ORIENTATION MEETINGS

New in SCWU? Want to know what's happening? The Membership Committee holds orientation meetings for new and prospective members.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ Zip _____
Phone (H) _____ (W) _____

Nights available to attend (check all available):

MON. ☐ TUES. ☐ WED. ☐ THURS. ☐

MAIL TO: Membership Committee, SCWU

For more information call Shari Carroll — (213) 990-0747.

herstories

by RET

Ed. Note: Autobiographies and biographies of SCWU members are welcome. In keeping with our policy of protecting anonymity, the subject can be identified or not, as you choose. Send copy, by May 1, to: Feature Editor, SCWU NEWS.

From a nondescript beginning in rural Glen Valley, Wendy came into her own on her own. She confesses to being what society has termed a "tomboy" and at age 15 left the family unit to become independent. She had graduated high school at that age and was now ready to discover if the world and its people were what she had learned they were through books and the radio. Her fantasies were short-lived as she came to terms with reality.

One reality was her knowledge of lesbianism, which came from the streets. "When I heard and understood what being a lesbian meant, it was so awful, so dirty . . . that's the way it was presented and I didn't want to be *that*, and so I tried not to be." Her way of trying not to be was to get married and subsequently pregnant. The marriage was soon terminated when Wendy told her husband she was a lesbian. He simply walked out on her. The following years were years of struggle. Being single and raising a son is one thing; add two more factors: lesbian and black, and you have what could be an insurmountable situation. Wendy maintained and handled that reality as capably as she has handled the raising of her son.

That son, now 21, knows his mother is a lesbian. Because of Wendy's honesty with him and love for him, he has always known and has a super attitude about it. "He cares for me and whatever makes me happy is what he wants for me. I am what I am and I will not destroy my life, my child's life, or another human being's life by trying to be what I am not." Problems seem to arise only when Wendy has a party and her son would like to invite some of his friends!

When Wendy was 9 years old, she knew she was different but did not know what the difference meant. She knew only that she *felt* the difference. Between ages 9 and 18 she had the usual crushes, one of which made a major difference in her life. In the 9th grade, she had a teacher who was just out of college, assigned to her school for only a year and working on her masters thesis. Wendy had been goofing off in school and her grades were not what they should have or could have been. When this teacher asked the class to write a paper on what they wanted to be, Wendy wrote she wanted to become a doctor. This teacher took Wendy aside and told her she wasn't intelligent enough to be a doctor. Wendy thought, "How dumb she is if she can't see how intelligent I am. I'll show her." This was a turnaround for Wendy for the rest of her high school years when her grades were all A's. Wendy's attraction to this teacher included writing her notes but never giving them to her. Instead she would leave them outside her office door with her name written in large letters so someone would surely find them. One day the teacher thanked Wendy for her nice note. A friendship



Wendy (not her real name) and son

developed between them that still exists today.

Wendy enjoys attending church and has no trouble bridging the gap between church and homosexuality that exists for so many. She was brought up by a Baptist minister grandfather who put no pressure upon the children to attend church. The way her grandparents lived simply made her want to do the same. "I have a basic belief that God made everything that exists. I didn't set out to be a lesbian. The Bible tells me that God cares about even the leaves that fall from the trees. If that's true, then I am one of God's creatures also and so He cares about me, too . . . and He knew before I knew what I am."

In dealing with her lesbianism, the biggest stumbling block is not being able to be honest. The need to cover up and play a role is constant. Working for a government contracting agency, she is 80% sure she would not lose her job if the truth about her came out. But, being no different from so many others, she is unwilling to take the chance. Long ago, a job had been lost because of loose talk and the risk today remains great.

She describes herself as a "private person . . . basically a loner who does not do well in crowds." She is impressive, a strong person with an equally strong personality. She is another one of the sisters of whom we can be proud. A graduate of UCLA with a degree in applied mathematics, her current job title is aeronautical engineer and computing analyst.

Wendy has a huge sense of pride in herself and in her accomplishments. But she constantly wonders what others would say and how they would feel if they knew about, as she puts it, "my life behind the closed door."

ELSI

Well-known SCWU Newsletter writer, Elsi, passed away last month. Memorial services will be held in the closet of her San Gabriel Valley home. Elsi reincarnated this month as Ret, the chair of the new San Gabriel group. As Ret, she will also continue to lend her energies as a Newsletter staff member and feature writer. Our deepest sympathies go to all who knew Elsi; our warm congratulations go to Ret!

WHITMAN-BROOKS:

Healing Our Own Homophobia

Congratulations to Whitman-Brooks on its new bi-monthly newsletter!

Formerly the all-male Southern Californians for the Whitman-Radcliffe Foundation, Whitman-Brooks changed its name, reincorporated and became a truly co-sexual group all in the past year. This is one of the fastest growing organizations in our area. Pam Parker was its first woman member and soon became its Executive Director. Now it has almost achieved 50/50 in its membership of men and women. (Pam is also an SCWU member and was very helpful in the organization of our Speaker's Bureau.)

The primary focus of Whitman-Brooks is on "self-acceptance and achievement of our full potential as human beings." Its educational programs stress awareness of our own hidden homophobia and how to overcome it.

It has developed a very effective conference program called "Developing a Positive Gay Identity" which is comprised of small groups and workshops led by mental health professionals and other community leaders. Started in Los Angeles, these conferences are now being held in major cities around the nation. The most recent one was scheduled for March 22-23 at UCLA.

Weekly rap groups range in size from 6 to a limit of 20 and there is a men's rap, a women's rap and a mixed group each week. As with all Whitman-Brooks activities, developing a positive gay/lesbian identity is the theme running throughout topics selected. In the works is a new group for gay and lesbian parents and step-parents.

Other major activities this past year have included "Casino Night" on the Queen Mary co-sponsored with SCWU, and the GAU-6 conference co-sponsored with the Gay Academic Union.

For a copy of the newsletter and more information, write Whitman-Brooks, 856 N. Westmount Drive, L.A. 90069, or call (213) 657-8282.

The Great American Art Show (GALAS)

A national series of exhibits and events honoring lesbian creativity begins May 1, 1980. Here in LA, it will be at the Women's Building downtown. All of the shows will occur at the same time across the United States. A continuous slide presentation showing all the works exhibited will not only keep you from missing what's on exhibit in your home town, but will serve as a valuable historical resource. It's an ambitious and exciting idea, and contributions are needed to see it through. Send yours to GALAS, c/o GCSC Box 38777, LA 90038. For more information call Terry Wolverton (213) 467-4893.

Hung Up In The Closet

by Sophia Potoka

"What are you?" someone asked one day. My response was "A molecular structure that exists only in the minds of those who, to date, managed to transcend reality and touch the cosmos."

A silly answer to a silly question, you may be thinking; however, it was a strategy to avoid a frightening reality. I am a lesbian.

• • • • •

When it was suggested I write about my conflicts in accepting my lesbianism, it seemed like an intense subject to reflect upon. However, as I write, it is an elevating experience to review my growth and ultimate acceptance of me. So here is the Saga of an Eastern Lesbian Divergent.

The first inkling that I might be attracted to women came in my teens. Classmates filled their lockers with Rock Hudson and the like; I had Grace Kelly. This can easily be rationalized; Grace was a mother substitute.

Clue No. 2 came at the age of nineteen. I experienced that creeping sensation up my spine and in other assorted parts of the anatomy when I looked at one of the Air Force trainees attending my class on Chemical, Radiological, Biological Warfare. This was attributed to my maternal instinct.

At twenty-three I made love with a woman. This was attributed to being drunk.

Future experiences were consistent with mother substitute, father substitute, teddy-bear substitute, teacher substitute, child substitute... the only thing I did not convince my cerebrum of was a Christ substitute; however, I didn't miss the Blessed Virgin.

This went on for twenty-some years. Can you imagine how much the field of psychiatry grossed?

Besides being able to tap the right side of the brain and come up with strong inductive reasons why I wasn't a lesbian, it was equally easy to tap the creative side and come up with Strategies of Divergence.

Bi-sexuality was always a good one. I am just capable of loving; therefore, I am simply an open, loving being — but certainly not a lesbian. Then there was the Pick-A-Married-Woman routine. This could never be a lesbian relationship because she was emotionally committed

elsewhere. At low points, there was Drink-Your-Way-To-Oblivion so you don't think; and of course, at a REALLY low point I could always call upon good old Guilt. "I will never make it to that great place where all those I know went, and have a bunk made up waiting just for little old me." Then there was always Conventional Marriage. This was the game I played longest on a consistent basis. Although it was sprinkled with interludes, as long as I had that ring on, had a piece of paper, was a mother, I couldn't possibly be a real lesbian. So what if I was sharing lunar aspects with my husband's boss' wife? I was not a lesbian.

Then one day something happened comparable to the Second Coming. Earth-shattering is the appropriate word. My lover got fed up and left. My husband got fed up and left. My gay dogs got fed up and growled. My aggressive, androgenous cat peed on me and my faithful car broke down on my way to the nearest Mental Health Facility. I got the idea a change was about to take place.

Now if you can imagine this SOAP episode, you might think I would be ready to concede to my feelings. But not the Truly Perseverant Divergent. Nope, I simply created another game. This one was Isolation. It went like this: I am the reincarnation of St. Francis of Assisi and am destined to never again share me with a human. My place in the world is with the animals.

When this one grew tiresome, I switched to the Rebellion game: Society is forcing me to conform by making me choose a lifestyle — due to their limited linear thinking processes. I refuse on general principles.

Last was the Pick-Someone-Unobtainable. Thus, if the fantasy can never be carried through, then it is simply an idea without an act and, therefore, is not.

Well, here it is twenty-some years later, as I said. Mind and body have finally gotten it together. The "what are you?" question has been integrated into my being. Thus, I am now simply a woman who prefers to share her intimate moments with another woman.

I am a lesbian
Happy as can be
Not because I have all things
But that I am finally me.

TYPESETTING

IN PERSON OR BY MAIL!

NEWSLETTERS ☐ FLYERS ☐ FORMS
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A Christian Church with an outreach to the gay community.
Rev. Jeri Ann Harvey, Pastor

SCWU Special Interest Programs

Informal get-togethers featuring a special interest presentation are scheduled the second Friday of each month. (Similar programs are scheduled on other Friday nights by the Southern Committee and the Ventura and San Gabriel groups.) Free to SCWU members. Non-members pay \$2 and may attend twice.

FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 1980 7:45 p.m.

Topic: Recycling Dollars Back Into Our Community.

Resource: Susan Gross, Stock Broker

Location: 19204 Cantara, Reseda

Directions: Ventura Fwy., Tampa exit. North on Tampa until 1 block before Roscoe, turn right on Cantara 993-0615

MEMBER RAP GROUPS

Are the Special Interest Programs getting too big for you? Then come to one of our member-only raps. Attendance is limited and we'll call you for the next meeting.

Name _____

Phone (H) _____ (W) _____

Check topics which interest you:

- ☐ Political Effectiveness
- ☐ Photography
- ☐ Psychic
- ☐ Gourmet Cooking
- ☐ List Others _____

Nights available to attend (check all available):

MON. ☐ TUES. ☐ WED. ☐ THURS. ☐ FRI. ☐

Mail to: Membership Committee, SCWU

FRIDAY, MAY 9, 1980

7:45 p.m.

Topic: Our Own Homophobia

Resource: Pam Parker, Whitman-Brooks

Location: 3919 Evadale Dr., LA

Directions: From LA take Pasadena Fwy.

north to Ave. 43 exit & bear right up hill

to STOP sign (Griffin). Left to next STOP

sign (Montecito). Right to Sinova. Left

to Latrobe, which changes to Elderbank.

At the top, this becomes Evadale at the

NOT A THRU STREET sign; house is just

beyond the sign. From Pasadena take

Pasadena Fwy. south to Ave. 52 exit & go

left. Ave. 52 becomes Griffin. See directions

above. Park along left curbside &

plan to walk a ways. 225-5711

FRIDAY, JUNE 13, 1980

7:45 p.m.

Topic: Looking At Our Own Isms

Resource Persons: Marilyn Murphy and

Irene Weiss

Location: 15674 Olden St., Sylmar

Directions: Golden State Fwy. north (can be

reached by taking Hollywood or San

Diego Fwys. north) to the Foothill Fwy.

(210). Exit at Yarnell & turn right at STOP

sign. Go one block to Foothill & turn left;

2 blocks to DeYarmo & turn right. De-

Yarmo will become Olden. 362-6048

San Gabriel Valley

The San Gabriel Valley group is continuing to grow. Our last meeting, a combination meeting-potluck dinner, was attended by sixteen beautiful women. It was a full and exciting afternoon. Plans are being made now for the May rap which will be led by Jan Stone (attorney), and for the June rap which Susan Gross (stockbroker) will direct. Our raps are still raps because our group is still small enough to be able to interact with each other. The raps are held on the first Friday of each month. If you live in the area (and even if you don't), get in touch with me and plan to attend the next function. You'll be glad you did.

Although nothing definite has been decided, discussion is already underway regarding our next social. Individual interest in the different committees was solicited and we will begin forming our own committees as our group grows.

Since the inception of the SGV group, I have been informally acting as the chair. At the last meeting, the group formally and unanimously elected me to be the chair. Now I have some authority to support my assertiveness. For that, I say "Thank you."

If you live in the area, need information, or just looking for a friendly voice, call me at (213) 335-5791.

Ret

Southern Committee

"Zip, zap I was takin' a bath, long about a Friday nite, when a zing, zang along came a woman . . ." Well, anyway, something like that always seems to happen here in the Southern Committee on the third Friday of each and every month. Whether it is the Yin or Yang of it all, or the press-pull in our lives you can be sure that the membership of SCWU is going to research, schedule and learn from the interests in our community. Coming up per the schedule:

Lesbian Mothers Rap — Contact persons

Linda S. (714) 552-8161 / Karen M. (213) 438-4768.

Personal Growth Rap — Contact person

Elaine M. (714) 538-8985.

Orientation Rap — Contact person June

Campbell (714) 494-9606.

Book Group — Contact person Karen M.

(213) 438-4768.

PLUS we continue on with the general membership event, THE SPECIAL INTEREST PROGRAMS:

FRIDAY, APRIL 18 — Program rescheduled for May. SEE YOU AT COTTONTAIL RANCH.

FRIDAY, MAY 16, 1980

7:30 p.m.

Topic: To Be Announced.

Resource Person: Diane Abbitt and Bobbie Bennett

Place: Glendale Federal Savings, 100 Newport Center Drive, Corona Del Mar

Directions: 405 Fwy. to Jamboree, south to

Pacific Coast Hwy., turn left (south) to

Newport Center Dr., turn left onto

Newport Center Dr.

FRIDAY, JUNE 20, 1980

7:30 p.m.

Topic: Bicycle Tour of the U.S.A.

Resource Person: Barbara Vandale

Place: State Mutual Savings, 5116 E. 2nd St., Long Beach

Directions: 405 Fwy. to Bellflower Blvd. So.

to Pacific Coast Hwy., turn left (south) to

Second St., turn right (west) onto Se-

cond to above address. Between Nieto

and Granada. Park and enter from the

rear.

There's much ado about something. We are geared up for a great year and look forward to the excitement, anticipation and maybe some amazement at ourselves as we continue to grow and experience each other and what we have to offer. Again, come join us.

Love ya, Judi Doyle

(213) 438-5877



Southern California

Physicians for Human Rights

Speakers Bureau

& Referrals for Gay and Lesbian Health Care

(213) 858-6787

7985 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 109, Los Angeles, CA 90046

*Alcoholism
Center for
Women*

1147 South Alvarado Street
Los Angeles, California 90006
(213) 381-7805

An opportunity for sobriety, personal growth
and awareness in an environment supportive
of lesbian and non-lesbian women.

recovery house • living skills •
individual and group peer counseling •
self development • Alcohol Awareness
drop-in group Wednesday evening

Ventura County

We had a very productive meeting in February with Judy S., who has been appointed our liaison with the Board of Directors. Out of that meeting three committees were appointed to facilitate our growth.

Potluck work meetings are being planned for the first Friday in April and May. This will provide a chance for us to get to know each other better and at the same time plan our future together in SCWU.

Any member who thinks she may be interested in participating in the Education, Membership or Social committee is welcome. Bring a dish to share and find out what needs to be done.

The potluck will be at 6:30 and the meeting will begin at 8:00.

APRIL 4 201 W. Vineyard Ave., #2, Oxnard
Directions: 101 Fwy. to Vineyard Exit. Left on Vineyard to Edelweiss (1 blk. past Oxnard Blvd.). Building is on right corner (1-8) on front.

MAY 2 1492 Elsinor Ave., Ventura
Directions: 101 Fwy. to Vineyard. Go toward Saticoy. Left at 118. Left on Telephone Rd. Left on Clay (opposite 7-11 Store). Go to end and go left. Go to end. Elsinore on left.

Our Special Interest Programs are going to be especially interesting. In April, Dr. Jane Patterson, an SCWU member who helped initiate the group Southern California Physicians for Human Rights, will be our speaker. She will present her well-known slide show on women's health problems.

A panel of women from the National Organization for Women will speak at our May meeting. Two are members of the State Board and one is coordinator of Simi Valley Chapter's Lesbian Rights Task Force.

FRIDAY, APRIL 18—7:30 Orientation—7:00
Topic: Women's Health Problems
Resource Person: Dr. Jane Patterson
Place: 1326 Calle Tulipan St., Thousand Oaks
Directions: 101 Fwy. Exit at 23 North. Then take 2nd exit at Avenida De Los Arboles. Go left to first street on left.

FRIDAY, MAY 16—7:30 Orientation—7:00
Topic: Human Rights in the Eighties
Resource Persons: Peggy Berman, Sharon Linnenkohl and Vicki Lundberg
Place: 4516 Vista del Valle, Moorpark
Directions: See enclosed flyer.

If you are new to SCWU and/or would like to find out more about our organization, come at 7:00 for a special orientation meeting before any of our regular programs.

On Saturday, May 24, we are having a beach barbecue. See enclosed flyer for details.

We are also planning a day trip to Catalina Island the latter part of July. Watch for a flyer on that.

A Lesbian Mothers group for this area is in the process of forming. Any interested woman can contact Lillian at (805) 486-0194.

We are looking forward to seeing all of our sisters at Cottontail Ranch for another exciting weekend.

Be seeing you —
Keri Butcher — (805) 659-2639

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Whats Going On Whats Going On Whats Going On Whats Going On

April 5-7 International Gay Association meets in Barcelona, Spain. For information, contact the U. S. Liaison Office at the Gay Community Centre, 1469 Church Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20005.

April 11-13 Women in Martial Arts 2nd Annual So. California Training Weekend at the Astara Center, 800 W. Arrow Highway, Upland. For information call Beth Austin 390-6058 or Phyllis Nelson 398-8792.

April 15 Deadline for entries in the *Woman Works Exhibition* to be held at the Women's Building May 3-31. The format is 8½ x 11 and all types of works by women are being solicited. Submit entries to Arlene Raven, c/o Women's Building, 1727 N. Spring St., LA 90012.

April 15 at 8 p.m. "The Women of Surrealism: A Magic Touch," lecture by Paula Lumbard; in conjunction with the exhibition *The Artist as*

Magus which runs through April 21; at the Women's Building in downtown LA. For information call (213) 221-6161.

April 18-20 Second SCWU Weekend at Cotton-tail Ranch in Malibu Canyon. For information call Bev at (213) 362-6048.

April 24-27 National Conference on Women's Culture in the Workplace. For information call Terry Blecher at the Women's Building (213) 221-6161.

May 17 The National Association of Business Councils (NABC), the first nationwide organization of gay and gay-oriented business associations meets in Houston, Texas. For information write NABC, Box 744, Chelsea Station, New York, NY 10011 or call (212) 944-9185.

June 19-22 Second National Meeting of Lutherans Concerned at St. Mark's Lutheran

Church in San Francisco. For information call Howard Erickson (213) 663-7816 or write Box 19114A, LA 90019.

July 14-31 Second World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women in Copenhagen, Denmark. For information on the Conference, write Secretariat, Room A-555, United Nations, New York, NY 10017. For travel information contact Womantours (213) 255-1115.

Sept. 26-28 Third SCWU Weekend at Cotton-tail Ranch in Malibu Canyon. For information call Bev at (213) 362-6048 or write SCWU, 13719 Ventura Blvd., Suite D, Sherman Oaks 91423.

ON-GOING — Saturdays, 4-6 p.m. — Lesbian and Gay Veterans' Rap Group at the Gay Community Services Center, 1213 N. Highland Ave., LA. Leader: Frank Bert (213) 464-7400, Ext. 246.

MEMBER COMES OUT IN TIMES

continued from page 1

about her Sacramento trip. She wanted him to be aware of the situation, so that he would not be blindsided by comments or questions from clients or employees.

The manager, too, was very supportive. Reports Joyce, "He told me that he admired and respected me for taking a stand on what I believe to be true and right. He had absolutely no concern over reactions from clients or possible loss of business. His only concern was that I might be plagued with negative feedback from other employees. Neither was the case! There was not one call from the station's customers, and attitudes of co-workers were nothing but positive. Several expressed that they were proud to know me; and some even complimented the station's manager for his supportive stand.

"The reaction from the gay community has been wonderful, too. In fact, overwhelming. I received mailgrams and telephone calls from people I didn't even know! Many lesbians and gay men have said to me, 'I wish I could do what you did.' And my answer to them is, 'You can! Once you are at peace within yourself, once you feel secure about who you are, it becomes easier.'

"Looking back now, I know that for a long time I had not been convinced that I was one hundred percent ok. My own homophobic attitude supported the feeling of second-class citizenship. I bought into that theory for a long time. And since I didn't believe that I was ok, why should the rest of the world think any differently?

"That's where we create the barriers. We project our own uneasiness about who we are. We are, perhaps, our own worst enemies. We become so involved with our fear of being 'discovered,' that we set up uneasy environments.

We have to feel good about ourselves. If we have problems with that, we're certain to convey that to others."

Joyce believes that the biggest contribution we can make to ourselves is to enlighten ourselves. "It's a slow process," she emphasizes. "It comes in time. From a protected environment of secrecy, we start out by taking small risks. And as we find that it's a safe thing to do, we are reinforced and ready for bigger risks. In time, we're able to say, 'Here's who I am.'

"In employment situations, I've experienced subtle discrimination; I've been the target of rumors and innuendo. I've been aware that we're open to abuse . . . without recourse. That's a fearful place to be in. I've finally come to a place where I'm refusing to live with that fear. I've decided that I am worthy as a person. My lesbianism is secondary. I want to be secure in my work, and I'm asking to be judged for the person I am . . . and on that person's job performance."

Does she have any regrets? "My only regret is that the bill was defeated in committee... that it was defeated because of those who choose to confuse the issues and by the testimony of those who muddy the waters of human rights by tossing in such contaminated terms as 'sexual deviants' and 'the wrath of God.'

When asked if she would do it again, now that it's all over, Joyce replied, "It's not all over. It never will be. This experience will be with me forever. I've been reinforced by it. Yes, I would do it again. And I will do whatever I can to educate and enlighten those who do not yet see us as productive, worthy members of society."

Joyce Gonzalez had a story to tell. Here it is . . . for all of us to share. This reporter feels certain that she speaks for every SCWU member in saying, 'Thank you, Joyce, for having the guts to stand up . . . and for being an inspiration to us all.'

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Economic Power = Woman Power

By Gay Abarbanell

Do you remember when the Women's Movement was young and "equal pay for equal work" was one of our main issues? We have come a long way. Much legislation has been passed. Much consciousness has been raised. And yet in 1978 in these United States, the average high school dropout (male) still made \$1604 MORE than the average female college graduate. That is one of the many reasons why the ERA is so urgently needed. In the meantime, we must begin to learn how to make the money we do have work as hard for us as we work to get it.

As long as we do not integrate the true meaning and impact of inflation into our daily lives and plans we will continue to add to the majority of female poverty-stricken senior citizens. (Fifty percent of women over age 65 live on less than \$1800 PER YEAR.) Do you want to join them? If you will not be earning 100% more six years from now, you will not be able to buy exactly what you buy today. That's right — with inflation between 13% and 15% (depending whose statistics you believe) you will need 100% more every 6 years *just to keep even!*

Since most of us won't increase our earnings by 100% every 6 years, we must learn to make every cent we touch work for us. We may have learned to save when we were young. Perhaps you began with a piggy bank and graduated to a savings account with your very own name on it. But if you are still stuck with just that savings account, you are losing purchasing power every day. How? Well, let's look. If inflation is 15% and you earn 5½% on your savings account, you are MINUS 9½% every year.

What kinds of things can make your money grow faster than inflation? Among the best are the right real estate investments. Did you know that you can invest with as little as \$250, by pooling your money with that of many others, under expert management (that's the key) in a real estate trust?

Did you know that you can begin investing with as little as \$25 per month?

Did you know that even people with limited resources can participate in tax-sheltered investments which will lower their tax liability while earning well-above the rate of inflation?

If you have the time and interest, it is possible to develop the knowledge and expertise necessary to do good financial planning for yourself. There are excellent books available such as Venita Van Caspell's, *THE NEW MONEY DYNAMICS*. There are also experts who can counsel you on making wise investments which will help insure a secure future for you.

In order to have a successful financial plan, you need: The ability and willingness to earn an average wage. The discipline to save a small portion of your earnings *and make it work for you*. And last, but not least, good professional guidance. Financial planning is very personal and should be tailor-made to fit your goals, assets, and temperament.

All of us must commit ourselves to a secure financial future, and the POWER which that gives us, in order that we may each commit to uniting our POWER for ratifying the ERA, freedom of choice, and every other vital goal of feminism. MONEY is POWER!

Gays Still "Not Family"

A New York judge has ruled that Stanley Saul cannot inherit the co-op apartment in which he had lived with his lover, Phillip Perl, for 10 years until Perl's death at age 50 last September. Housing Judge Ferdinand Pellegrino stated, "The court has been unable to find any authority that holds that homosexuals living together constitute a family unit."

—Lesbian Tide

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COMMITTEES

NEW!!

THE SCWU SPEAKER'S BUREAU

What about Sharon's lesbian friends who "weren't homosexual?"

Why does Jan have a pact with her dead lesbian grandmother?

Why did Joyce come out in the LA TIMES?

You had to be there. It was the all-day workshop for the Speaker's Bureau at Judy and Pam's house early in February. Shari Carroll, Speaker's Bureau Chair, had organized a full day of resource persons, practice sessions, question periods, ideas, comments, and VERY short potty breaks. Good thing, too — there was barely time to take everything in. It was a great day, an exhausting and exhaustive day, a haunting day, a tremendously productive day.

Ivy Bottini began, "You may be the first real live lesbian your audience has ever seen — that it *knows* it is seeing. So pause before you say anything and let them have a good long look. Then begin by sharing something personal with them — so they can identify with you, like you. *Then* give your facts and figures or whatever you have come prepared to say." Ivy was as good as her word, sharing with us her personal coming out. Included was the gut-clutching story of a woman who was so terribly closeted that her lover *died* on the highway un-comforted, unheld after an automobile accident. Yet that event changed the woman's life — she determined that nothing like that should ever happen again, and she became one of the first open lesbians in NOW. She was also the first lesbian that Ivy "knew she knew."

Then Bill Paul gave detailed instructions about the actualities and practicalities of preparing a speech and delivering it in such a manner that the audience can — and will want to — absorb it. He advocates using an introduction and a conclusion, because, he points out, "this may be the first time your audience has ever heard *anything* like what you will tell them."

Pam Parker spoke about homophobia — our own — and from examples in her own experience showed us not only how we suffer from it, but how we subtly project it.

Myra Riddell, our indefatigable Chair, gave a demonstration of how to deal with heckling, hostile questions. The hecklers were enthusiastic Speaker's Bureau members who were well equipped to supply some really tough ones, to wit: "Well, if nobody knows what *causes* homosexuality, then how can you be *sure* it's not catching?"

Fef Barnes gave an actual sample or demonstration talk, asking us to be her non-gay audience. She used her personal experiences and her own field (sex counselor) as the springboard for a calm, clear, deliberate presentation of facts. She seemed to pull together all of the points given by the other presenters.

In-between, there were practice sessions. Shari gave each person 2-3 minutes to tell about their "coming out" experiences or about some aspect of their lives that wasn't generally known. A thousand adjectives come to mind: dynamic, frightening, tender, inspiring, these are just a few. Even the accomplished speakers were a bit nervous about talking to this group of peers, but nothing could hide their sense of personal conviction and commitment.

Each member of the Speaker's Bureau gets a "packet" of information to keep; it includes typical questions and answers, information about specific issues such as religion, child molestation, civil rights, and resources to contact. In addition to this packet, Shari has a Speaker's Bureau Resource Book available. The book is divided into sections dealing with just about everything that might be useful, from speaking techniques to psychological studies. Shari has asked for help in adding to the basic book and in keeping it up to date. If you read about a study, a law, an opinion, a religious statement — whatever might serve as a resource for a speaker or as an indication of current stereotypes that need attacking, please contact Shari at (213) 990-0747. And if you are now inspired to JOIN the Speaker's Bureau, or if you know of a group which would like to have a speaker, you know who to call. Right? Right.

B MacC

SCWU Help Wanted

NOTE: ALL the committees always welcome new people — but these were specific requests this month.)

FUNDRAISING: This new committee has hit the ground running; it promises to be an exciting year with lots of ideas and energy needed. Call June Moore for information (213) 483-4763 daytime, or (213) 550-1357 evenings.

NEWSLETTER: Looking for someone to coordinate distribution and delivery to feminist and lesbian bookstores and organizations. Call June Mazer at (213) 791-4561 days or evenings.

RESEARCH: The questionnaire is almost ready for printing. If you can help distribute it or help keypunch it for the computer, please call Judy (213) 993-0615 evenings.

PUBLIC RELATIONS: Needed — a new PR Committee. Our two co-chairs have had to resign due to other pressures, and SCWU really needs to continue this vital function. Joyce Gonzalez (for more about Joyce, see article in this issue) has agreed to be liaison and acting chair for the development and setting up of this committee. If you have expertise in this area or you are willing to learn it, call Joyce (213) 460-5630 days.

OTHER COMMITTEES YOU MIGHT WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN...

EDUCATION: Starting to plan for this year's Award Dinner; many projects under way for public education. Call Susan Gross (213) 552-5273 daytime.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE: One of the "backbones" of SCWU, this committee is the one which gives us all of our good times. Call Judy Faust (213) 362-6048.

MEMBERSHIP: Is into everything. If you don't know just what you'd like to do exactly, Sharon is there to help you. Call (213) 766-6811 and leave a message for her.

ORIENTATION MEETINGS: A sub-committee of Membership, which holds regular small group meetings to introduce new and prospective members to SCWU. To help out, call Shari Carroll at 990-0747 evenings, or days and leave a message.

OUTREACH TASKFORCE: Another sub-committee of Membership, this group lends an ear, a hand, a ride, a coffee, comfort — to those women who would like to know more about us but are too closeted to meet a large group by themselves. If you remember how it was for you and want to ease the path for someone else, call Margo Strik (213) 258-6211.

SPECIAL INTEREST PROGRAMS: The arrangers and organizers of our monthly programs need help with pick-up, delivery, cleanup, finding homes and speakers. Call Bev Kozlow (213) 362-6048.



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By the Board . . . By the Board . . . By the Board . . .

★★★ We should have a great game at Cottontail! The softball team was voted \$100 for equipment. For softball participation, see notice on page 2.

★★★ Several Board Members as *individuals* attended the Rossi Fund Dinner (a benefit for cancer treatment programs at Kaiser) at an SCWU table. This important outreach to the non-gay community demonstrates that we have the same concerns as other citizens and the same willingness and ability to respond to them.

★★★ The formation of SCWU groups in other areas of Southern California has led the Board to begin an examination of our priorities, structure, and procedures. An outside consultant will be asked to help with this analysis, which will include options and recommendations for improvement.

★★★ "Welcome Back" was extended to June Moore after a 3-month leave of absence. June is Chair of the new Fundraising Committee.

★★★ The Board session in January was visited by a contingent of the Southern Committee to discuss firsthand some of the operational and communications difficulties with the LA Chapter.

★★★ The revised by-laws were unanimously approved. Also approved were the revised articles of incorporation. SCWU is in the process of application for tax-exempt status as a non-profit educational corporation.

★★★ The fundraising PYRAMID effort, chaired by Sharon Tobin, was explained by Myra Riddell. Watch for details of this dynamic idea soon.

★★★ Board Members will serve "on the door" at SCWU events at least once a year, as part of the plan to make the Board known to members and members known to the Board. Other persons serving on the door will get training from Dee Brueske so that they will be able to answer questions about SCWU and give help and encouragement to new and prospective members.

★★★ Myra and Sharon are negotiating to arrange for a group insurance plan for SCWU members.

★★★ A late March BBQ is planned for a joint meeting of the LA-Southern Committee Boards; part business, part fun, part getting better acquainted.

★★★ The Great American Lesbian Art Show (see article in this issue) will receive a \$100 contribution from SCWU plus an offer to do a mailing for them at our expense.

★★★ An Ad Hoc Committee to explore and define the positions of Board Liaison was formed with Ret as Chair. Ret heads the new San Gabriel Valley Formation Group.

★★★ No more sexism, no more ageism, no more stereotypes! Can you imagine? The Commission on the Status of

Women is sponsoring a meeting with women from SAG and AFTRA, major TV stations, radio, and representatives from women's organizations. Myra Riddell is co-chairing the meeting. Dianne Crocker will attend as official representative of SCWU.

★★★ There is a Board policy which rewards outstanding contributions of time and energy toward the work of SCWU by removing the requirement for keeping track of hours (50 a quarter makes the individual a Contracting Member in Good Standing). At the February meeting this status was voted for Dee Komar, in recognition of the hours upon hours she has spent doing SCWU's tax records for the IRS. Other members so recognized recently were Margo Strik and Shari Carroll.

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Vol. III, No. 2 March, 1979

Jean O'Leary & National Gay Task Force

June Mazer

Jean O'Leary has announced her resignation as Co-Executive Director of the National Gay Task Force, effective June 1979.

Those of us who were members of Southern California Women for Whitman-Radcliffe in its early days remember the excited and stressful planning for our "first evening lecture presentation to the general public" with Jean O'Leary as the featured speaker. Many of us, fresh from our "closet" isolation booths, had never even heard of the National Gay Task Force let alone Jean O'Leary. Her appearance in Southern California for that February 25, 1977 presentation at the Los Angeles Convention Center was the beginning of our education about and involvement in the gay rights movement. Through our aggressive public relations program her intelligent and personable message about lesbian and gay concerns reached millions of



JEAN O'LEARY
Photo by Pat Field

Southern Californians via newspaper, radio and T.V. coverage.

As Legislative Director of NGTF she had coordinated the lobbying campaign for the introduction of the first Federal Gay Rights Bill in the House of Representatives in 1975. In 1976, with amazing political astuteness, she had won a delegates seat to the Democratic National Convention where she spearheaded the nearly successful effort to have a gay rights plank included in the official Democratic platform.

At the Los Angeles Convention Center in 1977 she announced the historic White House meetings. "On February 8th, for the first time in the history of the United States, representatives of the gay community met with a top-level administration official in the White House!" She and Bruce Voeller, as Co-Executive Directors of NGTF, had met with Midge Constanza, then President Carter's assistant for public liaison. This would be followed by the meeting on March 26th with fourteen representatives of the gay community — including Myra Riddell, Chair of SCW/WRF. Subsequent working meetings with high level officials of various Federal agencies, including the U.S. Civil Rights Commission, the U.S. Public Health Service, the Bureau of Prisons, the Justice Department and the Immigration and Naturalization Service, continue to this day. During 1978 "NGTF's co-execs Jean O'Leary and Bruce Voeller were frequent guests at the White House." (*It's Time*, January 1979.)

She was appointed by President Carter to the International Women's Year Commission, where she acted as principal organizer for formulation at state meetings and adoption at Houston of the sexual preference resolution. She was also then appointed by the President to the National Advisory Committee for Women, from which she resigned in protest when Carter fired Bella Abzug.

(Continued on Page 3)

STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATION

The SCW Profile Report on political activity of members indicated that 72% write letters to politicians — all of you, plus the other 18% are needed now.

AB 1 is the first State Assembly Bill of 1979, sponsored by Art Agnos. If it passes, it will prohibit job discrimination because of sexual orientation, pregnancy, or refusal to grant a sexual favor. It is important to feminists; it's important to gays. Send a public service telegram (Western Union — two bucks) or letter to your Assemblyperson to urge support of AB 1. Your local library will be able to give you the name and address you need.

To get it through the Senate (the Senate Bill is SB 18; this is identical to AB 1 in the Assembly) a tie must be broken. Senator Montoya of District 26 has that vote. And he won't listen to anyone outside of his own constituency. *If you live, or if you know somebody that lives in his area, please hurry!* Call Maryann Murphy, State Board Director of California Human Rights Advocates, at 223-4474 or 874-0640. She'll tell you how best to help. The cities in District 26 are: Alhambra, Monterey Park, Montebello, El Monte, Pico Rivera, South San Gabriel, Baldwin Park, La Puente, Industry, Rosemead, and Valinda.

And there is federal legislation in the works, too. Representatives Ted Weiss (Dem-Lib, New York City) and Henry A. Waxman (Dem, Los Angeles) will soon introduce a new gay anti-discrimination bill similar to the former Abzug-Hoch bills. Write or wire your Congressional Representative and Senators today urging them to become co-sponsors of this important legislation.



"Why I came to California!" Our heroine in the potato patch. See "herstory" on page 4.

An open letter to the Women's Community:

We are the women of the L.A. Rape Hotline — we provide services to 400 women and kids in crisis every month. We support women during police and court procedures — we arrange medical care — we help women confront their attackers — we help women organize in their neighborhoods for protection — we teach self defense — we talk to schools and community groups about sexism and violence towards women — we are available 24 hours a day, every day, to talk to any woman who needs a caring friend . . . but we may have to stop.

For 3 years we have supported our services through research projects but the grants have run out and there is no money available to pay for the services we provide. We need your support to stay open — we need \$1500 per month to pay our phone bill and rent.

Please make a donation or pledge right now — tell your friends about us — offer your time to raise money. *We need you* if we are to continue being here for women who need us.

In loving struggle,
the L. A. Rape Hotline
P.O. Box 145
Venice, Ca. 90026
Call 392-8381, 24 hours

Dear Forum:

I just got a pitch, by mail, for money to help re-elect a candidate. Since he'd been supportive during the No on 6 campaign, I decided to spring — but I wrote on the check, "This is gay money". Just thought somebody else might like to use this idea!

Brinks Truck

Dear Forum:

Now that some of the dust has settled after November's battle over Proposition 6, I would like to interject my own feelings about the direction we as individuals, and SCW for U as an organization, should take.

The most important thing we can do now is become involved. The prejudice and dislike which created the initiative in the first place has not disappeared. This is why public education and public exposure are important, as opposed to the immediate pressing for protective legislation. If we remove the prejudices, we need no protection.

As for politics, back those who supported us. There is much work to be done in this area that does not require coming out of the closet.

I also encourage the Board of our organization to develop a plan so we can pursue our goals of education and understanding as a group as well as individually. I feel our membership has the ability to change prejudices to understanding, and we should have an organizational plan to follow. How about it?

Sharon Colwell

GAY C-R IN COUNTY AGENCIES

"We have made a major breakthrough into County agencies!" reports Ivy Bottini, Director of the Women's Division of the Gay Community Services Center. Thanks to Supervisor Ed Edelman, who set up a meeting with top level management from various county programs, GCSC is making substantial inroads into the Department of Social Services, the L. A. Unified School District and the County Mental Health Centers with their training programs. Already underway are awareness seminars for 8000 eligibility workers in various districts. Similar programs for case workers are in the works and they are opening discussions on gay foster homes. GCSC services will now be listed in all County Resource books.

THERE'S GOOD NEWS AND BAD NEWS

The GOOD NEWS:

****The Body Politic* won its case. The Canadian magazine for gay liberation has been on trial for sending obscenity through the mails. At issue was a literate, responsible article on pedophilia. The judge ruled that the article and the magazine made a valuable contribution to the community.

***PARENTS AND FRIENDS OF GAYS requested and got equal time on Channel 5 to rebut an unfavorable treatment of homosexuality by the religious "700 Club" program.

***NOW won its fight to continue the boycott against the unratified ERA states. Had they lost, boycotts would have, in effect, become illegal actions.

***In Missouri, a lesbian mother was restored custody of her daughter; the first time in that state a decision has been made in favor of a gay parent.

***In LA, a gay male couple was granted final adoption of a two-year old boy by the LA County Superior Court.

***The New Jersey State Appeals Court has ruled that prosecution of homosexual acts is unconstitutional. Therefore, New Jersey's Senator Maersa had to withdraw his bill which would have made homosexual acts illegal.

The BAD NEWS:

***The Human Rights Bill, SB 3, would have made it illegal to discriminate because of sexual preference. It didn't make it out of the Industrial Relations Committee. But we still have another chance with AB 1, which also includes pregnancy and refusal to grant sexual favors.

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VICTIMS OF PROP 6 FIGHT

The Gay National Educational Switchboard, whose opening was announced in this Newsletter recently (Vol. II, No. 6), discontinued its services on December 1st. The switchboard was unable to generate enough funds to meet its expenses, including monthly phone bills of approximately \$5,000. A nationwide fundraising drive had been delayed until after November 7th (the election) but that was too late to save the switchboard for this year. *Theatre of the Other Window* has disbanded completely. You will recall (Vol. II, No. 5) that they had to abandon plans for opening of their projected August production because funds needed were being diverted to support the anti-Briggs Initiative effort. Briggs is dumb but costly.

PARENTS AND FRIENDS OF GAYS

Anguish. Acceptance. Despair. Love. Frustration. Puzzlement. All these and as many more as there are people in the circle, all these and in all combinations, all these and in all stages of flux. There are timid questions and bold defiance, tentative judgements, positive statements. Insights emerge, hovering overhead almost palpable. Serious work is being done here.

It's the Rap Group hour at a Parents and Friend of Gays meeting. Let's say you've managed to get one or both of your parents to attend with you, and you are each apprehensive and trying to be cool with your heavy burdens. Your first big sigh of relief might come when you realize as you're counting off 1-2-3, that there are *three* rap groups; since Dad is number 1, Mom is 3 and you are 2, you'll each be in a different group! So you know you won't simply be repeating stale arguments, and you know that progress can be made.

After the Rap hour, there's a scheduled speaker; sometimes gay, sometimes knowledgeable non-gay. The meetings of the LA group are always held at 7 PM on the third Tuesday of the month at the Westwood United Methodist Church. It's at 10497 Wilshire, 1 block west of Beverly Glen; go downstairs to the Choir Room. Everyone is welcome, and you can participate or you can just listen in.

There are raps in other sections of the city and around Southern California. To find out about them, call 472-8952 or write to Box 24528, LA 90024 and ask for a copy of their Newsletter. All the phone numbers, times, locations, are in each issue.

Parents and Friends of Gays is just three years old; on March 25th a fabulous birthday party/fund raising is planned in Bel Air. There is a lot more to celebrate than mere existence, however — this is a very active, aggressive, involved organization. Their Calendar of Achievement for 1978 starts with the initiation of a blood bank and ends with serving refreshments at GCSC. In between: They formed a hot-line squad to counteract Briggs petitioners. They wrote March Fong Eu about false statistics on child abuse and gays. They presented an award for "Word Is Out" at Filmex. They established a lending library of literature on homosexuality. They participated in meetings with Mayor Bradley, legislators, teachers. They reached out to more parents through radio and TV spots. They marched on Hollywood Boulevard in July. And they produced the booklet, "About Our Children".

In September, when the Prop 6 campaign was as hot as the Santa Ana wind, they mailed out 20,000 copies of this booklet. Where they chose to send them was elegantly strategic — look. A copy went to every PTA president, church pastor, library, police station, FM, AM, and TV station, and every California government official. SCW for U contributed \$500 toward printing and postage. By November 150,000 had been mailed out to voters. Currently, another mailing of 20,000 is going out to counselors and administrators in Jr. and Sr. High Schools. And they are flooded with requests from out of state now; the more people find out about it, the more people want it. There is no better measure of success for a public education project than this response — it is REQUESTED.

That gays are impressive is not news to us, and we've all known impressive friends. But these ferocious lions working on behalf of their cubs are a whole new dimension. Many of them begin while they are still in pain, still squirming, still trying to understand that being gay isn't a bad thing we DO, it's a good thing we ARE.

Parents and Friends of Gays is an effective organization working to bring that realization to other parents and to the public at large. Wish them a happy 3rd birthday and if you'd like to support their efforts, dues are \$12 a year, to P.O. Box 24528, Los Angeles, Ca. 90024.

JEAN O'LEARY (Continued)

Her announcement that she is leaving the post at NGTF in June follows the recent resignation of the other Co-Executive Director, Dr. Bruce Voeller. Bruce, along with Dr. Howard Brown and others, founded NGTF in 1973 and became its first Executive Director. He was instrumental in implementing a co-equal role for women at NGTF with the appointment of Jean as his co-director in 1976. Both have given a tremendous amount to the organization and to the movement, individually and as a team. Under their leadership the National Gay Task Force has become a powerful organization, working within the system, for the advancement of gay rights. New Co-Executives are being sought and Jean and Bruce will continue their contacts with the task force in advisory capacities.

Note: In five short years NGTF has grown to over 10,000 members, but that's out of a potential of about 20 million. In this difficult period of transition to new leadership the organization needs and deserves our confidence and support. Don't be one of the 19 million, nine hundred and ninety thousand! NGTF is at Suite 1601, 80 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10011; dues are \$15 a year and that includes a monthly newsletter.

Brydon Named To NGTF Post

As we went to press, NGTF announced that Charles F. Brydon, 40, a Seattle insurance executive and gay movement leader, has been appointed to the position of Co-Executive Director, replacing Dr. Bruce Voeller, who resigned in January. Brydon will assume the post on April 9.

He brings a wealth of movement experience to the job. Most recently, as founder and Co-Chair of Citizens to Retain Fair Employment, one of the major organizations opposing Seattle's anti-gay Initiative 13, he helped lead a winning campaign to defeat the measure in the November election.

He joined the Board of Directors of the National Gay Task Force in 1976, and is currently Co-Chair of the Board.

The deadline for submitting resumes for the other Co-Executive position, to replace Jean O'Leary, has been extended to April 15.

COMPLETE TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS



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herstories

Ed. Note: We hope this is the first of a continuing series of "Herstories" — another kind of "profile". Autobiographies and biographies of SCW for U members are welcome. In keeping with our policy of protecting anonymity, the subject can be identified or not, as you choose. Send copy, by May 1st, to: Feature Editor, SCW NEWS.

She likes her privacy; she likes her quiet. She likes her savings liquid. She wouldn't give you a nickel for an antique, nor for chicken soup. And those dumb bib overalls?

A succession of eleven kids slept in the one room upstairs; boys on one side, girls on the other, with Grandma. They'd wash faces and hands at the icy kitchen pump by kerosene lantern, then fly to snug up under the blankets. Chamber pots stood at the ready; you'd freeze going to the two-holer.



They crossed themselves before getting undressed. It was a safeguard against the sinful body. But in winter-time you never saw your sinful body until the Saturday bath. One by one, each person took a basin of heated water and the homemade soap up the open steps. Clumps of frost formed on the nail points that stuck into the roof and walls from the tar paper outside. Quick as you could, you got into the clean longjohns — longjohns that would not come

off, day or night, until the next Saturday bath.

Winter or summer, rain or shine, blizzard or hurricane, the wash was done this day. A huge boiler hung over a wood fire out in the yard; great stacks of cord wood, great lengths of clothesline were ready. The wash was hung for display, the newest and whitest sheets in front, then the boys' white Sunday shirts. Then all the longjohns. Anything worn or torn hung way in the back, toward the house. The lines were decorated precisely and with care; the women would be judged by this performance.

Mom and Dad slept in the one downstairs room with the newest babies. The kitchen was here, and the big table, and the wood stove that was called upon to stave off the below-zero blizzards of northern Maine. Poverty was not having enough food put by for the winter, or having somebody too sick to work — she had no idea they were poor.

The tight French farm community preserved somehow the customs, traditions, and language from nobody knew when, nobody knew where. It couldn't be France, how could it be France? They were Americans, weren't they? And it couldn't be Canada — yechch. It must be just our own way, they thought. And if so, it must not be worth much. But at least it's ours, at least we can tell us from them.

Her family lived on the wrong side of the river, with the onion-eaters — a diet that made them stupid, said the folks on the hill. But that was not something she took personally. What outsiders said or thought was not important; it was what the family said or thought that counted. The family was survival. The family was shelter, duty, food, entertainment, life. Nobody could make it alone. You could see that life was a hard, serious business, that it demanded all our resources and attention. The family was so essential to life that not the wildest dream could imagine a day it would be an "option".

Summers were short, the land poor, the labor all done by horses, or by hand. For cash, they sold everything they could. Grandma carded and spun wool, Mom churned butter, sold cream. But the family ate margarine and drank skim milk. They sold eggs, and ate only the chickens too old to lay.

Summer wasn't a happy time: the boys made beer, and neighbors made a kind of potato gin. Winter was the happy

time. Mom sang at her cooking, Dad was home and safe and sober. There was time at night for stories. A lumber contractor in winter, Dad borrowed from the Company, hired the horse teams, the crew, and the land. Mom bought the supplies and stores, packed up the giant cookware. The family and crew would go off deep into the woods until spring, removed from any alcohol supply. They built a bunkhouse, cookhouse, and barn on the spot, then set to work. Mom and the girls cooked for the crew.

There was never enough money to save, but you were expected to save time. Time was the currency; you didn't waste it with hopes or dreams. Education was not encouraged — in fact it was discouraged. It was dangerous for the family to lose that labor; dangerous for you to become alienated. How would you get along then? Who'd help you?

All the boys spent winters in the woods from babyhood, and thus went to school only for a few weeks in fall and a few in spring. The girls were lucky; they took turns staying behind with Grandma. If it was your turn in a year you weren't too little to snowshoe the three miles to school, you could go. She was the eighth child and the first to finish grammar school, although she probably actually attended no more than four years total. Nobody doubted that she was a responsible adult at 13, better able than most to begin serious business. She was very proud and cocky; she doubted it least of anybody.



All the kids were born at home — brought by the Indians, not the stork — and delivered by Grandma in a house emptied of all prying children. Medical care? It consisted of not complaining. "You won't feel it the day of your wedding."

That day — the day of your wedding — was an unquestioned assumption. If you were getting your girlfriends to show you how their boyfriends kissed, if you took every chance to be with your gang of girls, if the idea of settling down and having kids didn't appeal to you at all, if you were really only interested in girls, girls, girls — well, you could get away with that for awhile, but sooner or later you'd get married. Everybody did. You had to. Someday.

BUT SHE ESCAPED! She escaped it ALL. When she left home at 17 with her first lover, imagine the culture shock. She spoke almost no English, was barely literate, had no skills, and worst of all had no idea how life was conducted among "the English".

But she was experienced at responsibility. She had pride and confidence in herself and her ability; tools her family had given her, tools so essential to success that their relationship to fact is totally immaterial. With these tools she has dreamed, educated herself, had ambitions and fulfilled them. She's successful in a field almost exclusively male.

You think she's 88, or 98? Wrong. She's 48 and still growing. Practical and pragmatic. Loyal, kind, and true. Assertive. A super bullshit detector. Loving. The only thing is, don't ever talk to her about "back to Nature", OK?

BOOK REVIEW

By Sanction Of The Victim

by Patte Wheat

Timely Books, (Box 267, New Milford, CT. 06776). 1976.
\$4.50, postpaid.

This has been the most difficult book review I have ever had to write, because Patte Wheat has written a gripping novel about a subject I usually avoid — deliberate personal violence of one human to another. *By Sanction of the Victim* is a novelized version of a true story of child abuse. The impact of the book stems from a vivid portrayal of the central characters, a masterful portrait of a human interaction that left me very uncomfortable. I had more discomfort reading this book than I did with *Lord of the Flies*, perhaps because this one was true. But the skill of the writer was equivalent.

Marjorie is a dull, uninteresting teenager, who, with her little brother Brucie, comes to live with Mrs. Genoud for a few weeks while her parents are off to a rodeo. Marjorie, always somewhat self-effacing, placidly accepts the small cruelties that Mrs. Genoud uses on her from the beginning. She "explains away" Mrs. Genoud tearing a fingernail and running over her fingers with the sewing machine. She "forgives" Mrs. Genoud by telling her that it is "not her fault" which only enrages Mrs. Genoud. There are other children boarding at the house and they too are encouraged to pick on Marjorie, until finally only Brucie and Karen are left who worry about her. You watch as Marjorie comes to believe slowly and inexorably that she is unlovable and unworthy of living. The novel ends after a particularly horrible stomping. Whether Marjorie lives or dies we do not know, we can only surmise.

If you are doing research in this area, or you are a professional working with parents and children in child abuse situations, this is a necessary book to read. You are given the perspective of Mrs. Genoud as well as of Marjorie, and though you may not like either one particularly, you learn to understand how they affected each other, and contributed to the events that occurred.

Patte Wheat has written a violent, unpleasant and excruciatingly difficult book to read. The characters come across as real and true portrayals. You simply cannot help but believe that this story is true.

For those who want insight into their own violence or their own subjection to violence, it is a book to be read.

Pam

Book Notes

Copies of *Wives Who Love Women*, reviewed in our last issue, are available at Sisterhood Bookstore in Westwood. Other bookstores will order it for you, if requested.

Our Right To Love, the lesbian resource book edited by NGTF Media Director Ginny Vida, is now available in paperback for only \$6.95.

The third edition of *"A Bibliography On Sexism"* has just been published by Lutherans Concerned. This annotated listing includes 89 books, pamphlets, tapes, films and collections of short works which deal with the potential of both women and gay people of both genders, emphasizing religious works. A free copy is available by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope (#10 business size) to Lutherans Concerned, Box 19114A, L.A., 90019.

POSTPONEMENT

Dianne Crocker and her daughter Tracy have been taped for a "28 Tonight" TV program on lesbian mothers, but the scheduled appearance was postponed. We'll be covering it in the next issue.

Southern Committee

By Judi Doyle

Hell-o, hell-o. The ole April Fool's Day won't get us. We are still a reality and thriving!

The Southern group has been very busy. We had a fantastic turn out for our February Valentine's Party. Some 80 women braved the fog and enjoyed themselves in Long Beach. Special thanks to Pat Martino, Shirley Davies, Bobbi Byers, Renee, Pam B. and Doris T. Our February meeting was also a smashing success as over sixty women enjoyed one another and the special interest speaker, author Jane Scott. I think we all learned a little more about feeling vulnerable and that being gay definitely involves risk taking. Again recognition is due Jane Scott and our hostesses Barbara and Lynette. Quite a spread was provided and consumed. Finally to bring us up to date, March will provide our members with a real education. Eye-opening concepts will be rendered by Marjorie Rushforth in her presentation on Relationship Contracts. The enthusiasm of our members and their very supportive participation are a constant delight. Thanks to Marcia M. for your warm home.

L.A. — Come On Down! We have more to come;

FRIDAY, APRIL 20, 1979

Topic: Financial Management

Speaker: Gay Abarbanell, Investment Advisor

Location: Jackie D., 3044 Mountain View Dr., Laguna, 8:00 p.m.

Directions: Coast Hwy. to Thalia left turn to end, turn right onto Mountain View Dr., follow around staying to the right. (714) 494-3160

FRIDAY, MAY 18, 1979

Topic: China I (second chance if you missed it) or, China II (more info if you've heard it)

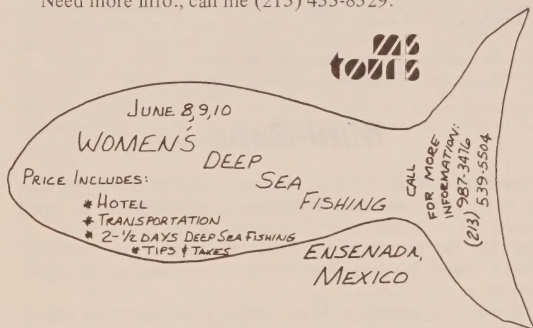
Speaker: Myra Riddell, Interesting woman

Location: Pat Radzicz, 947 E. Mardell, Orange, 8:00 p.m.

Directions: Call (714) 633-4954

As you can see, we are involved in a very energetic and fulfilling experience "a way out here in the sticks". We're really not that far though. So some third Friday night pump up your adrenalin and join us. We're the same as you; bright, aware, sensitive women wanting to share.

Need more info., call me (213) 433-8329.



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Special Interest Programs

A series of "Special Interest Programs" (formerly called "Raps") are scheduled the second Friday of each month by Southern California Women for Understanding. These informal get-togethers are free to members of SCW for U (women only, 18 or over). Non-member fee is \$2.00. Non-members may attend twice only. Further participation requires becoming a member (\$25 annual dues).

We have changed the name because "Raps" proved misleading for many new-comers. The groups have become much too large for small group discussion.

We would like to be able to continue holding these sessions in the homes of various members as this provides a more informal atmosphere, however, in order to do so we must have more homes available with a space large enough for a group of 60 to 70. If you would be willing to have a Special Interest Program in your home please call (213) 766-6811.

Programs are scheduled for 7:45 to 9:30, followed by a social hour, 9:30 to 10:30.

SCHEDULE AND LOCATIONS

FRIDAY, APRIL 13, 1979

Topic: The Priestess and the Sacred Prostitute

Resource Person: Savina Tuebal, Ph.D.

Location: 541 Stassi Lane, Santa Monica

Directions: *Santa Monica Fwy. West to Pacific Coast Hwy., (bear right) to Entrada Dr. (2nd light) - right and continue uphill to Stassi Lane - right. 459-4004*

FRIDAY, MAY 11, 1979

Topic: The Single Lesbian

Resource Person: Myra Riddell

Location: 1724 N. Pacific Avenue, Glendale

Directions: *#134 Fwy., Pacific exit, go north.*

FRIDAY, JUNE 8, 1979

Topic: Women and Money

Resource Person: Gay Abarbanell, Investment Counselor

Location: 19204 Cantara, Reseda

Directions: *Ventura Freeway to Tampa Exit - North to Cantara - right. (If you get to Roscoe, you have gone one block too far.) 993-0615*

FRIDAY, JULY 13, 1979

Topic: Love Addiction

Resource Person: Gwynne Guibord

Location: To be announced (home needed).

Mini-Raps

New in SCW for U? Want to know what's happening? Get involved? Or - just have a chance to talk together in small groups. The Membership Committee is having a series of mini-raps for interested members or prospective members. Bring a friend. It's a good way to introduce them to the organization.

If you're interested in being invited please complete the attached and mail to: Membership - SCW for U, 13033 Ventura Blvd., Suite L, Studio City, 91604.

MINI-RAPS

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

(City) _____ (Zip) _____

Nights available to attend (check all available)

Tues. ☐

Wed. ☐

Thurs. ☐

Coming Social Events

THE SPRING THING . . . a DANCE to be held APRIL 28th.

WEEKEND at the COTTONTAIL RANCH in MALIBU CANYON . . . happening the first or second weekend in SEPTEMBER. Advance reservations required.

Watch for special mailings with more details.

FOR MEMBERS ONLY

NEW MEMBERS

Due to the reorganization of SCW for U new member packets are not being mailed out at this time. If you have any questions regarding your membership please contact Sharon at 980-6949. A general membership meeting is scheduled for JUNE. See also "Mini-Raps" other column.

BECOME A CONTRACTING MEMBER

We need your energy! Members who contribute at least 50 hours per quarter to the work of SCW for U are eligible to vote, participate in interaction meetings and run for the Board of Directors. Pick your area of interest and get involved.

This quarter's interaction meeting is being held on Sunday, March 25th.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Since the primary purpose of SCW for U is educational, the Educational Program Committee has the opportunity to be an important and effective vehicle for achieving our goals. The Committee has the responsibility of determining and putting into action the means by which we hope to educate the public and ourselves.

This will be an active and working committee - our ideas and our efforts will determine what we accomplish, and our success depends upon the energies of our members. To that end, we would like those with the interest and the desire to participate to contact Susan Gross at (213) 552-5273.

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

The Research Committee is generating questions - deciding what to ask and how to ask it - for a community-wide lesbian questionnaire. It's a fascinating process! We need as many questions as possible before beginning to narrow them down to manageable numbers, and your input is needed! Wanted! Welcomed! For information about the next meeting. Call Judy S. at 993-0615.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Anyone interested in becoming a contracting member is urged to contact the Social Committee. Judy Faust says: "Instant hours available and we need the help." Call her at 240-2275. See "Coming Social Events" above.

SCW for U YELLOW PAGES

Linda A. is compiling an SCW for U only "yellow pages" resource list so members can find needed services and products within the organization when they choose. It will list professions and other services, businesses and areas of talent and expertise. Members interested in being included should write or call Linda at the SCW for U office.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A nominating committee - consisting of Pat Berly, Chair; Linda A. and Sylvia Clark - has been appointed to process applications for vacant Board positions. Current Board members and their responsibilities are: Chairperson, Myra Riddell; Vice-Chairperson, June Mazer; Treasurer, June Moore; Communication Secretary, Dianne Crocker; Recording Secretary, Joyce G.; Fundraising, Janice S. & Gladys Benjamin; Membership, Sharon T.; Newsletter, June Mazer; Participation Accountant, Linda A.; Public Relations and Publicity, Pat Berly and Sylvia Clark; Special Interest Programs, Beverly Kozlow; Research, Judy S.; Social Functions, Judy Faust; Southern Committee, Judi Doyle (Ex-officio); Education Committee, Susan Gross (Ex-officio).

STEREOTYPES IN UPHEAVAL

Two women of SCW for U recently spoke to a Human Services class at Cal State Fullerton. The experience of meeting two attractive, professional, personable, sensitive and articulate lesbian women rocked and challenged the class's concept of homosexuality as an alternative lifestyle.

In addition, their presentation made it possible for one scared student to disclose his gayness to the teacher and to express his appreciation for having learned about the variety of lifestyles within the homosexual culture.

The roots of prejudice push deep. We must continue to touch these roots in their home ground.

What's Going On

The *Lesbian and Gay Caucus of the State Democratic Party* will be meeting Friday, March 30th at 8 p.m. at the Long Beach Edgewater Hyatt Hotel. Newly elected Co-Chairs are Ivy Bottini (who will represent the Caucus on the State Democratic Executive Committee) and Tom Van Strien (current President of Long Beach Lambda Gay Democratic Club). Last year the Caucus had only 8 members — this year there are 60 out-front gays and lesbians. Anyone interested may attend the meeting and participate in the discussions. For further information call (213) 465-9715. Ivy is also interested in recruiting more lesbian members for the *Stonewall Democratic Club*, one of the most influential gay political groups in the country which, unfortunately, has only a handful of women. Call her at the same number.

The Career Planning Center is sponsoring a day-long *Women's Employment Options Conference* on March 31 at the Long Beach Convention Center. Registration at the door is \$6.00. For more information Call (213) 273-6633.

Womospace's Third Annual Wommin's Street Fair will take place April 1st, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. in front of Womospace, 237 Hill Street, Santa Monica, Ca., (213) 399-9813.

The tenth *National Conference on Women and the Law* will be held in San Antonio, Texas, March 29 through April 1, at the University of Texas School of Law.

The second annual *National Gay Health Conference* will be held May 18-20 at Hunter College in New York City. The planning committee is preparing a "National Gay Health Directory" to be distributed to conference participants. Gay health professionals who would like to be listed should write immediately to Caitlin Ryan, 55 West 26th St., #402, New York, N.Y., 10010 or call (212) 725-0114. The listings are free.

NOW's Lesbian Rights Task Force has set up regular topic-oriented PROGRAM MEETINGS and welcomes everybody. The time is 7:30 PM at Suite 310, 6363 Wilshire Blvd. in LA — that's between Fairfax & La Cienega. The date is the third Friday of every month; the topic for the April 20 meeting is: "How Do I Know I'm Gay." On May 18 the topic will be "Relationships". The discussions are very informal and you are free to participate or listen, as you choose. The Task Force will also sponsor a weekend workshop at USC on "Sexuality and Lesbianism, Alternate Lifestyles," June 9-10.

Christopher Street West is having a FESTIVAL this year (not a Carnival) at the Design Center, the weekend of June 16-17.

Plans are underway to organize a *National Coalition of Black Gays* to help serve the special needs of black lesbians and gay men. A conference is scheduled for September, 1979 in Washington, D.C., to be hosted by the D.C. Coalition of Black Gay Women and Men. If interested write or call Billy Jones: P.O. Box 548, Columbia, Maryland 21043; (301) 997-3541 or 596-5865.

CLASSIFIED:

PSYCHODRAMA

Small group now forming; 6 sessions — \$75

June L. Mazer, M. A., O.T.R., Psychodramatist
(714) 621-3792

Notes From The Chair

It's sprintime and as with most Southern Californians I've got spring fever. I'm smiling all the time, top down on my car, soaking up the sun, delighted with the green all around and the flowers blooming.

As a matter of fact I feel so happy I want to chat with you rather than writing another "call to the flag" message.

I feel like hugging (and do every chance I get) the women who put this newsletter together. It is a marvelous treat each time it comes out, I wonder how they manage to make it better each issue.

I cherish the women on the Board who work so seriously and laugh so warmly together.

I marvel at the women who put on such delicious parties and the women who coordinate our monthly "events" — stimulating, fun times. I wonder how they manage to corral the wonderful talent and the women who share their lovely homes.

Spring for me is a time for opening and expanding, laughing and loving. A time for me to get into the soil up to my elbows and plant my lovely flowers. I am so joyful for my friends whose fall and winter loves have blossomed into springtime pairing. I trust that when the first bloom fades, stronger, fuller blossoms will grow.

And I'm going to breed my beautiful, sensuous dog "Copper" so in the summer I will have more treasures to love. What a wonderful time this is.

Myra Riddell

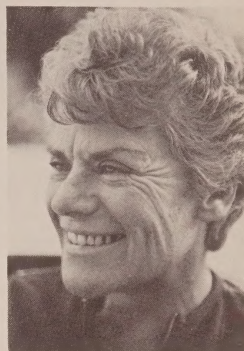


Photo by Melissa Beal

An Invitation

On the whole, lesbians have been invisible in the community. But as valuable, contributing (and tax-paying) members of that community, we have statements to make and we want them heard. There was need for an organization to give us a group voice without requiring us to be any more open than each individual chooses.

We need ways to educate the public, and ways to educate ourselves. We need to use our ideas and energy. We need ways to share mutual interests, ways to work together, and ways to become informed about our rights. We need to have fun and we don't need to feel threatened. Southern California Women for Understanding was formed to meet all these needs — and meet them it does.

Join us!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____

Address _____

(City) _____ (Zip) _____

Phone _____ Date _____

Occupation (Optional) _____

Check appropriate box(es):

☐ Yes, I would like to join. My check for \$25 is enclosed.

☐ Include me in the telephone pyramid.

☐ I would like to contribute. Enclosed is my check for _____
Please put my name on your mailing list.

☐ I would like to contribute. Enclosed is my check for _____
Do not put my name on any mailing list.

Make check payable to: SCW for U and mail to: So. Calif. Women for Understanding, 13033 Ventura Blvd., Suite L, Studio City, CA 91604.

OUR MAILING LIST IS COMPLETELY CONFIDENTIAL, AND IS NOT LENT TO ANY OTHER ORGANIZATION.

Also for the protection of our members and guests, no cameras, tape-recorders or other recording equipment are allowed at any of our social or fundraising events.

To Members, Subscribers, Organizations:

We're growing. The Newsletter's growing. Bigger, better, more ambitious. More contributors — some regular, some occasional. Bigger circulation. More advertisers. More important to be regular and on time.

For the Newsletter Staff, more work! It would help a lot if the articles submitted followed standard guidelines, so we have prepared some. If you have ever, if you will ever, if you plan ever to submit an article to the newsletter — or write a letter to "FORUM" — you need a copy of the guidelines. Call Bunny (213) 876-0336 or June (714) 621-3792 and we will mail you a copy.

The Newsletter welcomes articles, letters, cartoons, photos, reviews, news items — complete or presented as ideas.

Besides writing, we'd welcome more help with hand distribution so we could expand it without making our present distributors gas-poor. In fact, we'd like somebody to take RESPONSIBILITY for all the hand distributing: recruiting, expanding, checking, counting. And somebody to do the same for advertising. If any of these wonderful women are ready now, write to the SCW for U office c/o "NEWSLETTER" or call June or Bunny, who will get in touch with you about our next meeting. After we've yelled WHOOPEEEEE!

High Bidding

Additional excitement was generated at this year's annual SCW for U Auction by the availability of celebrity items. Those attending had a chance to bid on a script from *Mike Farrell*, a script and script binder from *Bonnie Franklin*, a script binder from *Shirley Jones*, an autographed book by *Joan Rivers*, an oil painting from the collection of *Miss Barbara Stanwyck*, an autographed album from *Lily Tomlin*, and art from the collection of Councilman *Joel Wachs*. *Ed Asner's* script arrived too late for the bidding but will be used in future fundraising.

Our special thanks to these famous supporters. Pat Berilly, who organized this very successful event, reports that 95 letters were mailed to celebrities requesting donations.

A total of 73 items were auctioned and raffled off for a net profit of more than \$2,000 over operating expenses which amounted to \$374. Food, drinks and dancing made this an outstanding social as well as fundraising event. It all happened on February 4th at The Plaza.

Moving?

Notify SCW for U of the change of address. Third Class mail is not forwarded!

Send address change to: Pat Martino, P.O. Box 2311, L.A. 90051.

Women and Science Fiction

Feminist Future Visions

—Kate Wilhelm
—Marion Zimmer Bradley
—Suzy McKee Charnas
—Chelsea Quinn Yarbro
and others . . .

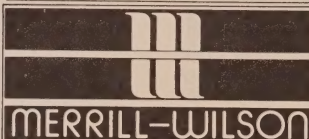
Saturday, April 21, 1979

Los Angeles Woman's Building

Registration fee: \$10.
(\$4., evening reading only)

To pre-register, contact

Fisher/Catoggio
1701 Clinton St., #206
Los Angeles, CA 90026



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(213) 381-7805

An opportunity for sobriety, personal growth
and awareness in an environment supportive
of lesbian and non-lesbian women.

recovery house • living skills •
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SHOULD GAYS MARCH ON WASHINGTON?

Rumors have been flying about a projected Gay March on Washington, D.C.

First, word came from a Minneapolis based committee that such a March was planned for May 6th. Then a San Francisco group announced the March on the Capitol for July 4, 1979. Finally a meeting was called in Philadelphia for February 23-25 to discuss the issue and gay and feminist organizations around the country were invited to send two delegates each.

This conference voted 106 to 54 to set the date for Sunday, October 14th, but Morris Kight, one of those who attended from the Los Angeles area, reports that many people feel very insecure about the voting. Only 160 delegates showed, mostly from San Francisco, Philadelphia and New York City. Representation from the rest of the country was very scattered with no one from the Pacific Northwest and very few from mid-America, the South or New England. The meeting allowed no real discussion of alternative ideas to marching on the Capitol.

Both Morris Kight and Ivy Bottini, well known for their leadership and support of activist demonstrations, seriously question whether 1979 or 1980 is the time for gays and lesbians to try to make an impact on the federal government with a mass street demonstration. The Carter administration has shown little interest in gay or feminist issues, to put it mildly, and the current conservative backlash is ominous and unpredictable, they feel.

The Philadelphia conference plans to send out a mailing nationwide to enlist support for the October 14th March idea and then to organize regionally and elect a national board.

It is unclear what will happen next. Now would seem to be a time for much more sophisticated political maneuvering which would guarantee the votes when we choose to push for them, but if a March does get underway we would hate to see it as ill-conceived and unsupported as the farmers' tractor parade.

SCW for U News

Published bi-monthly in February, April, June, August, October and December. Editor: June Mazzer, Feature Editor: Bunny MacCulloch, Staff: Ruth Abernathy, Dee Brueske, Peg Cellarius, Sharon Colwell, Pat Manigault.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: May 1st.

Advertising Rates: Classified (5 lines or less): \$5; Business Card (2" x 3 1/2"): \$10; 1/4 Page: \$22; 1/2 Page: \$40; Full Page: \$75. Discounts with yearly contract.

Members of SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WOMEN FOR UNDERSTANDING are mailed the Newsletter without cost. Non-members' annual subscription rate is \$3.00.